The Lone Wolf's arch-enemy, Yagyu Retsudo, is truly beginning to reach the end of his rope, as he sends his only daughter and last child after the blood-storm that is Itto Ogami! Meanwhile, Ogami and Daigoro happen upon another clue about the mysterious Yagyu Letter in a final showdown with the Kurokuwa ninja clan. A desperate Retsudo puts a bounty on Ogami's head, and two of Japan's most deadly bounty hunters hunt for the Lone Wolf and his Cub, while a poor woodcutter must decide between the bounty and his life by sheltering Ogami and Daigoro! All this and much more awaits in one of comics' most legendary series: *Lone Wolf and Cub.*

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LONE WOLF AND CUB

KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

VOLUME 16

DARK HORSE COMICS

LONE WOLF AND CUB

VOLUME 16

GATEWAY INTO WINTER

By KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

translation
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DIGITAL CHAMELEON

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GATEWAY INTO WINTER

子連れ狼

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA

VOLUME

16

A NOTE TO READERS

Lone Wolf and Cub is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

LONE WOLF AND CUB

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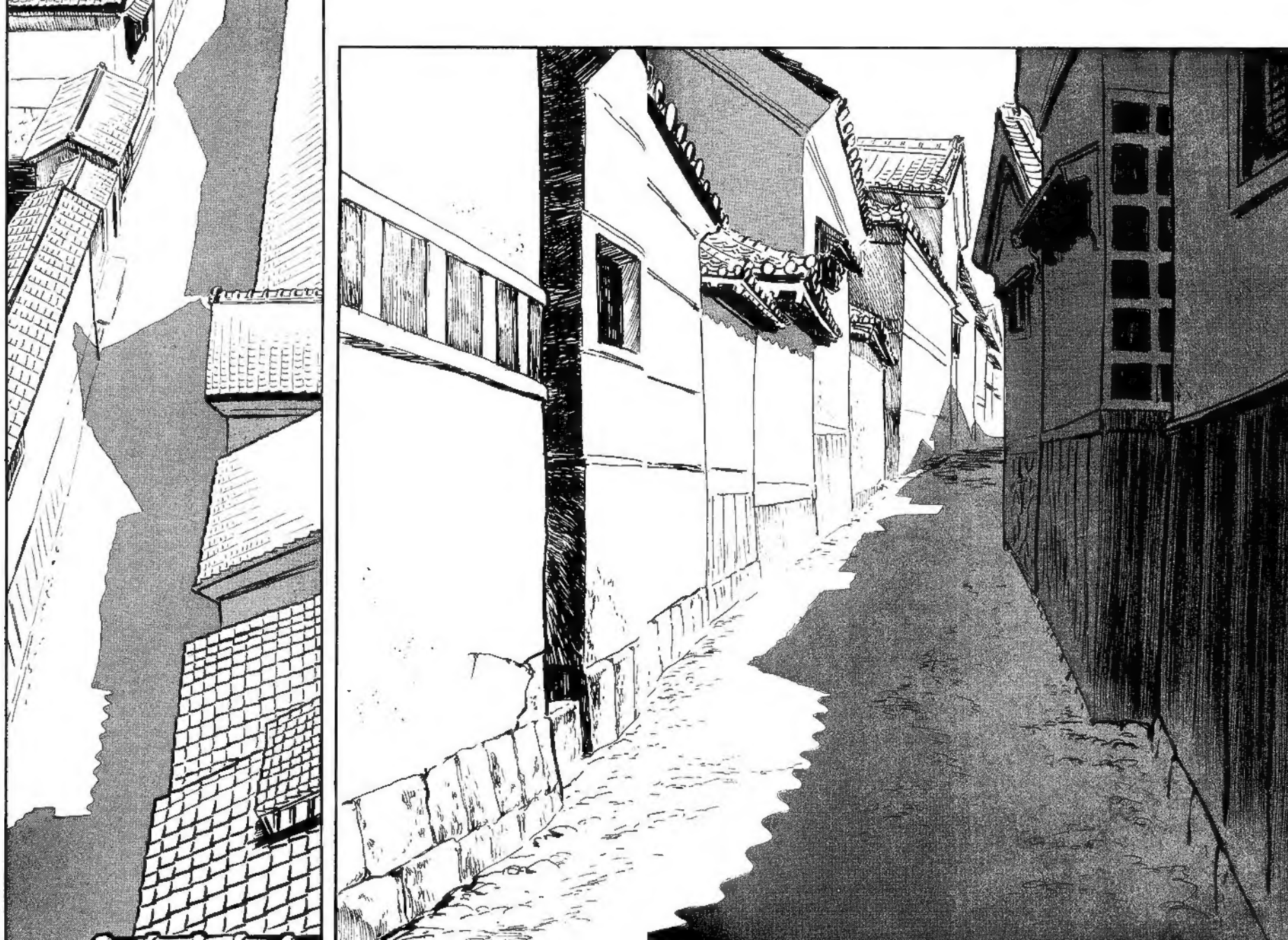
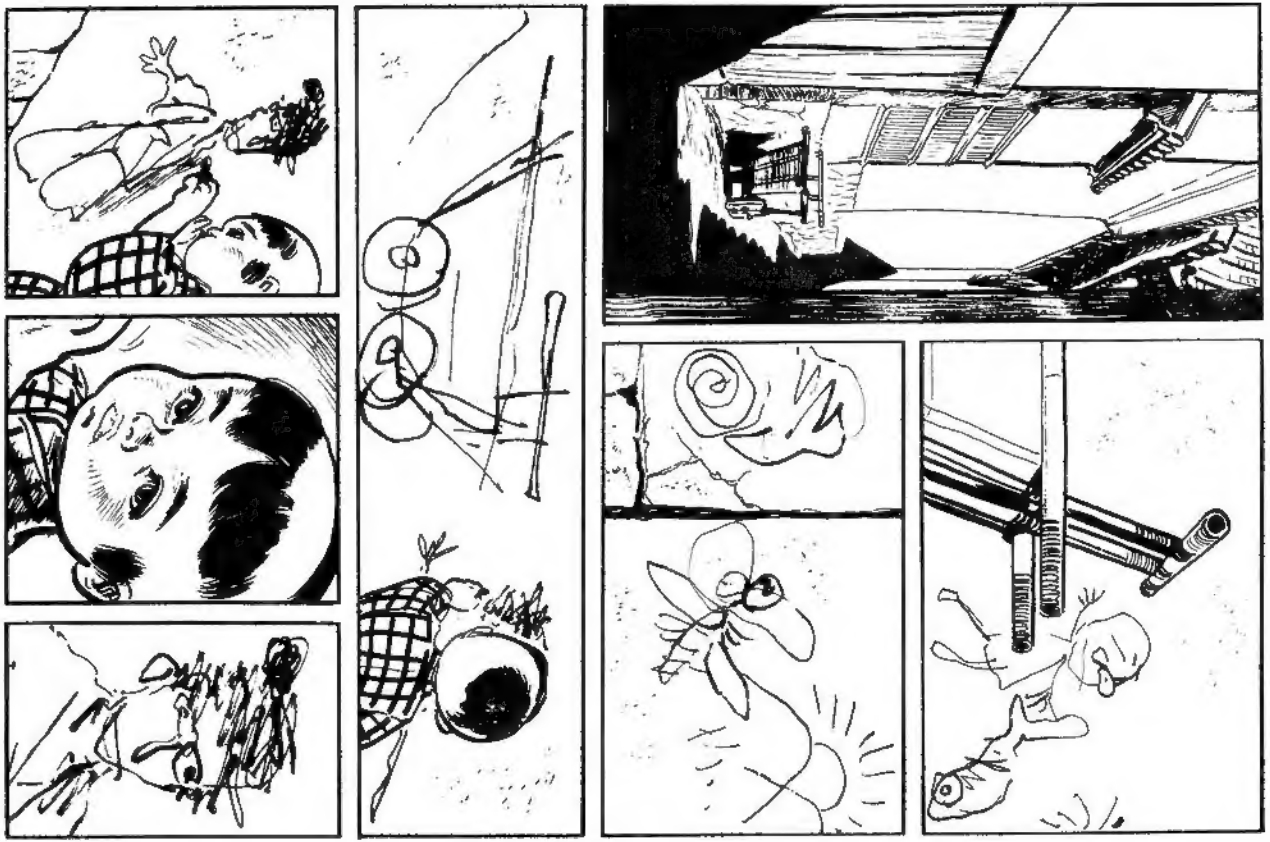
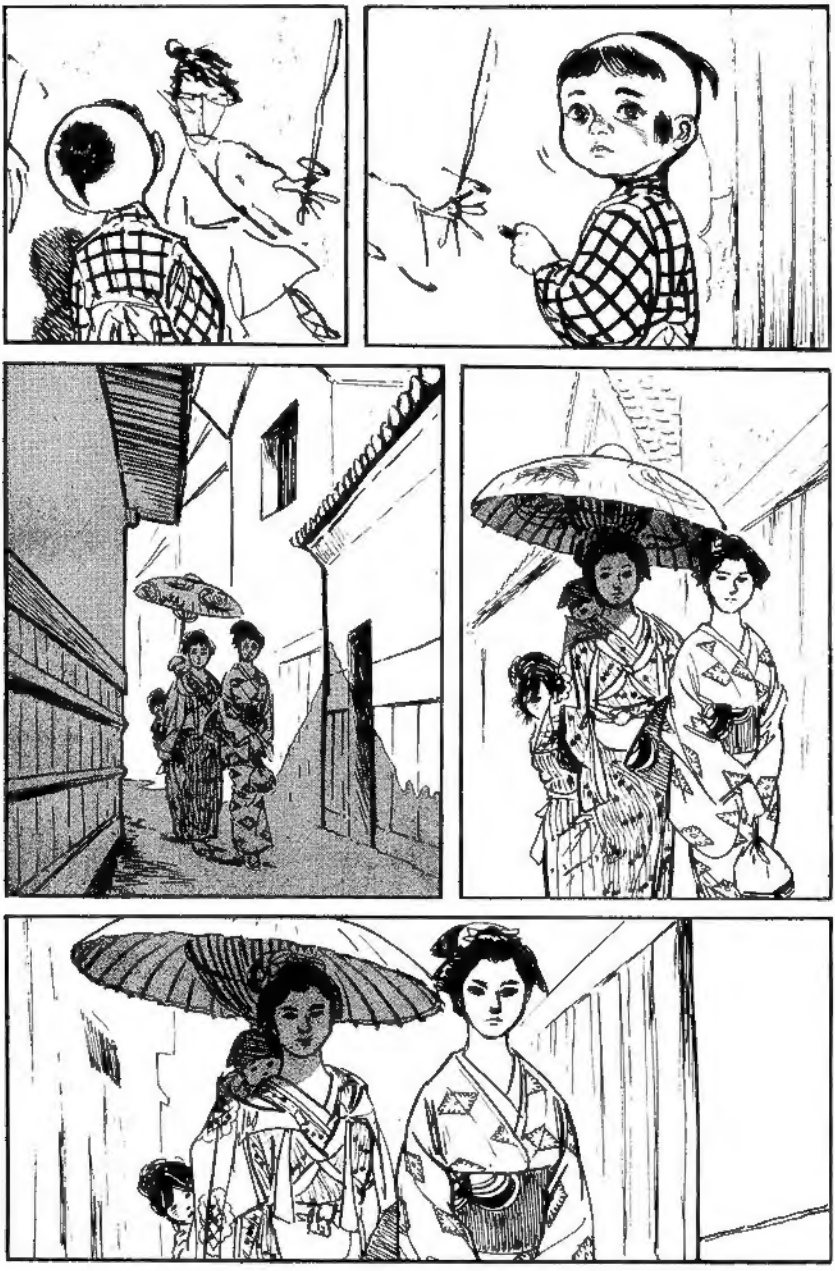
the seventy-eighth

Umbrella

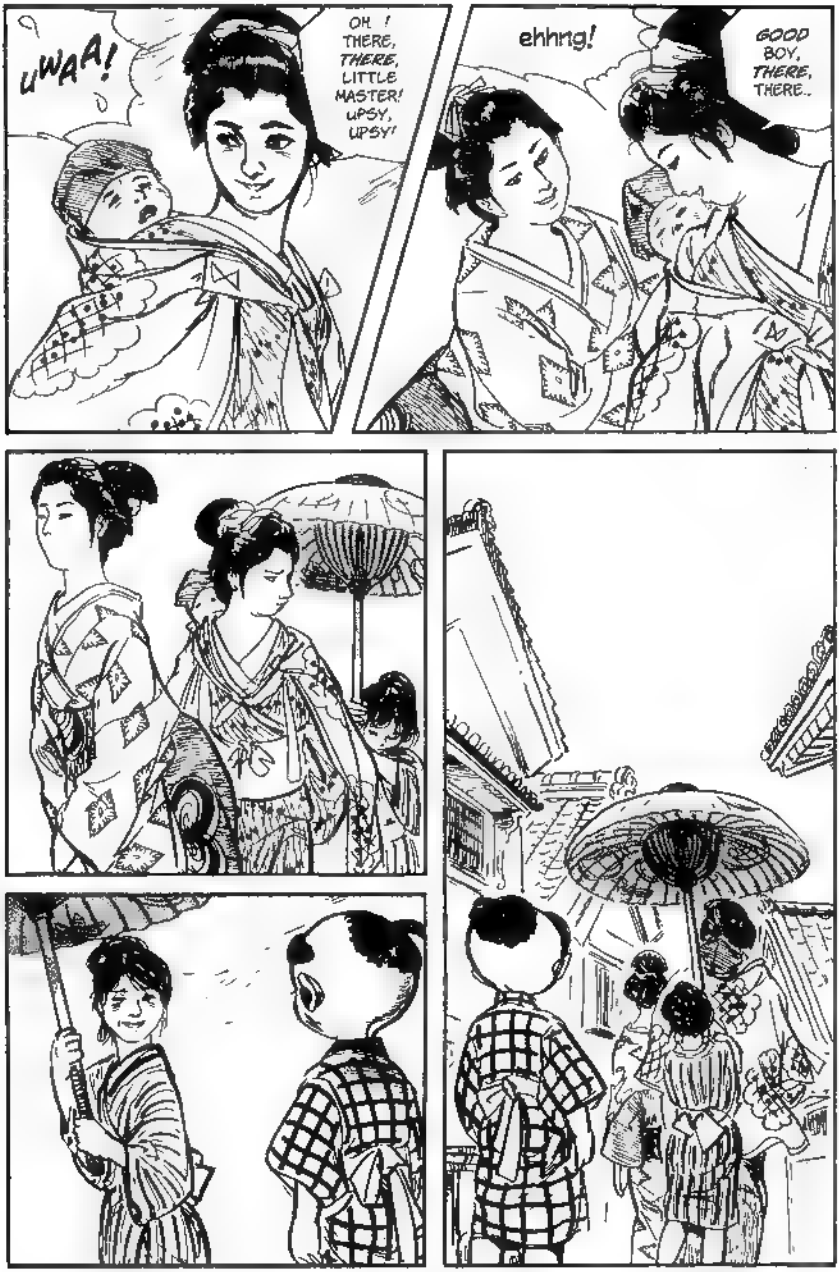




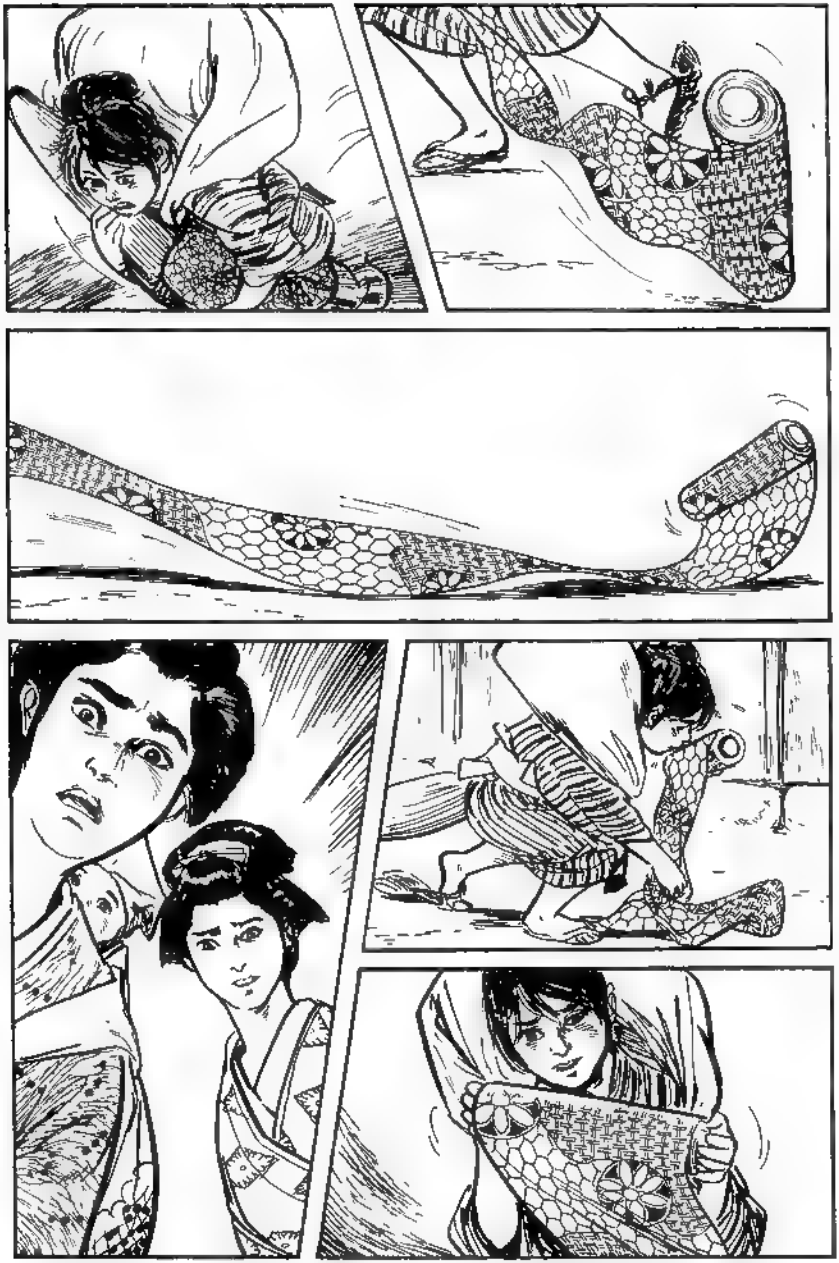


SMAK
KRAK
FWAK

SWAK
SMAK
KRAK
FWAK
H-HOW DARE YOU! IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
AND DON'T YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
SMAK


uWAA!
OH ! THERE, THERE, LITTLE MASTER! UPSY, UPSY!
ehhng!
GOOD BOY, THERE, THERE..

SNAP

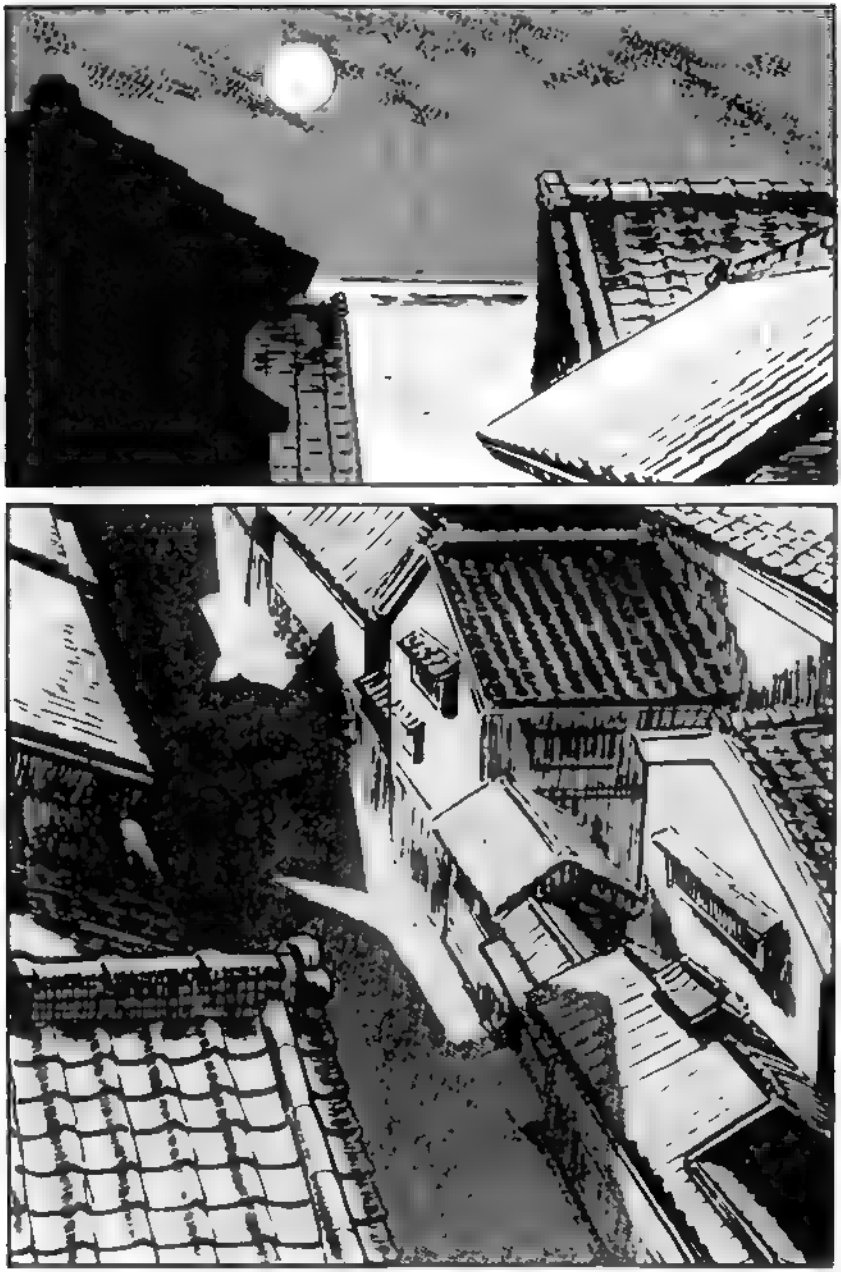


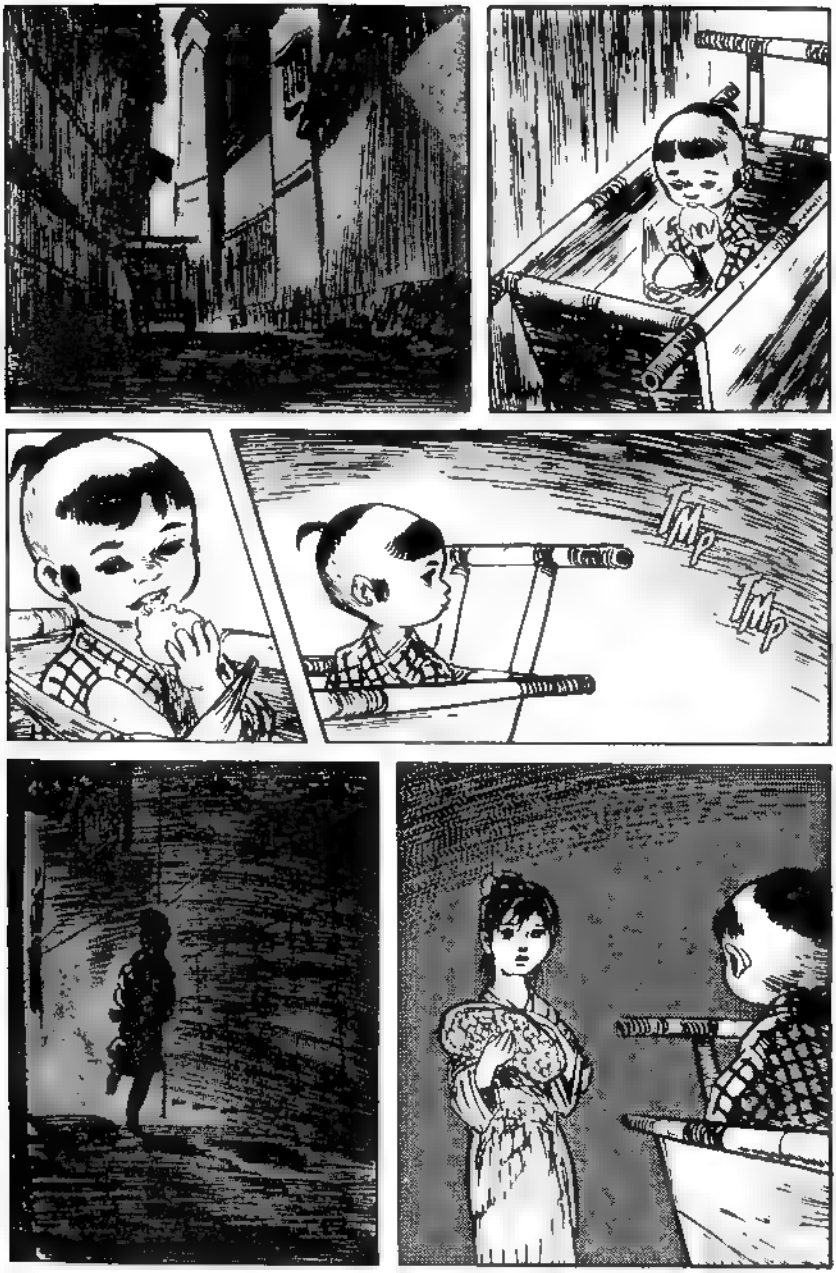
YOU LITTLE WENCH!
SWAK
MY SHOPPING... RUINED!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
NO DINNER TONIGHT, EITHER!
UNDERSTAND? EVERY STUPID BLUNDER YOU COMMIT YOU STARVE!

THAT'S TWO DAYS WITHOUT FOOD, MOM
IF YOU WANT TO EAT TRY HARDER TRASH
YOUR FAMILY OWES US A FORTUNE!
YOU'LL WORK THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AND NEVER PAY IT OFF!

IF YOU FEEL THE TINIEST SHRED OF GRATITUDE, DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO PLEASE ME.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE WORKING FOR NARUMI-YA TO THE DAY YOU DIE!
I HATE THAT LOOK!
KRAK

INSOLENT
GUTTER
TRASH!




TMp
TMp

sulpi
mich
mich

THE THE THE
THERE SHE IS!

LITTLE TROUBLE-MAKER!
THOUGHT YOU'D RUN AWAY, DID YOU?!
I'LL PUNISH YOU BUT GOOD!

CUT IT OUT!
IT'S YOUR DAMN FAULT YOU'RE SO UPPITY!
BE GRATEFUL YOU WORK FOR A MERCHANT HOUSE. WE COULD'A SOLD YOU TO THE WHOREHOUSE!
NOW COME ON!
H. HELP!

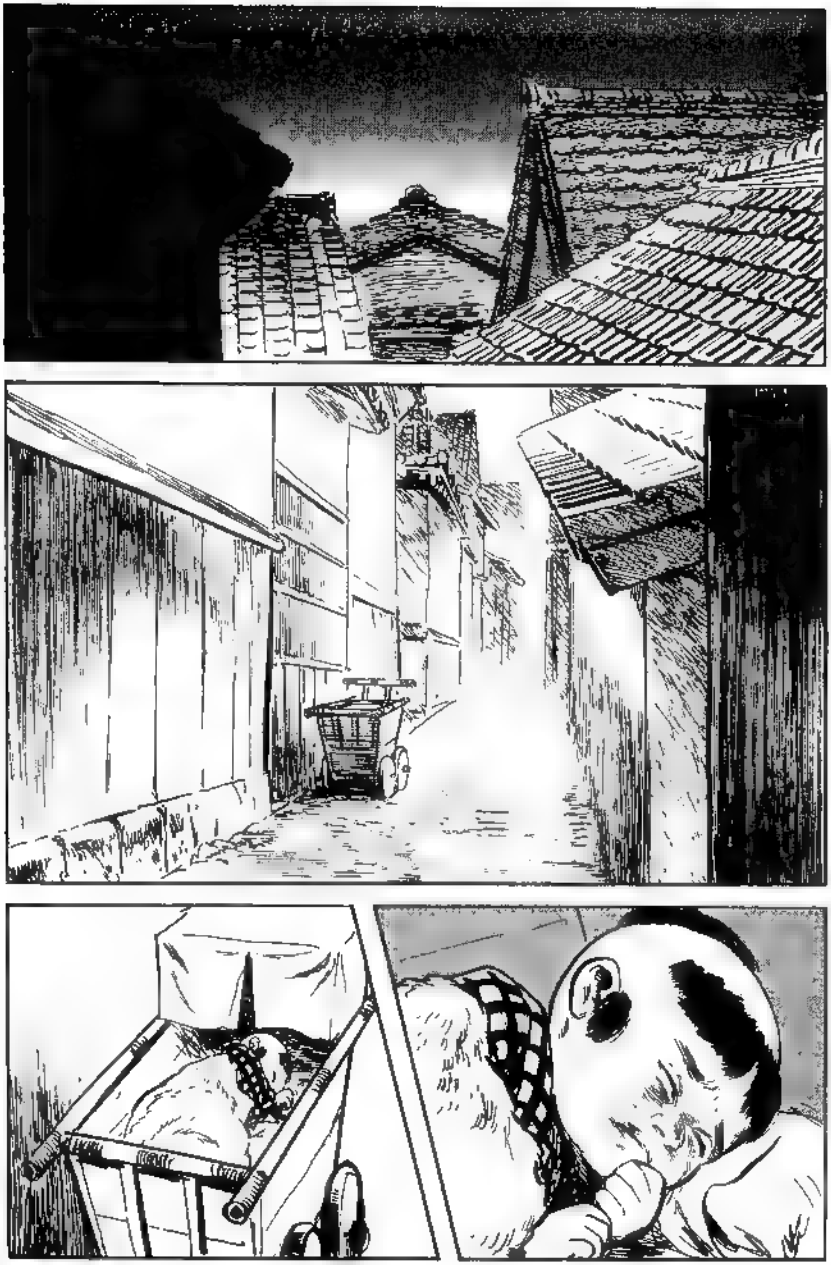
SHUDDUP!
DAMN WENCH!
NO! NO!!
I WON'T!
I WON'T GO BACK!
I HATE IT! I'D RATHER DIE!
KRAK
OW! WHAT TH-?!
HUH?!

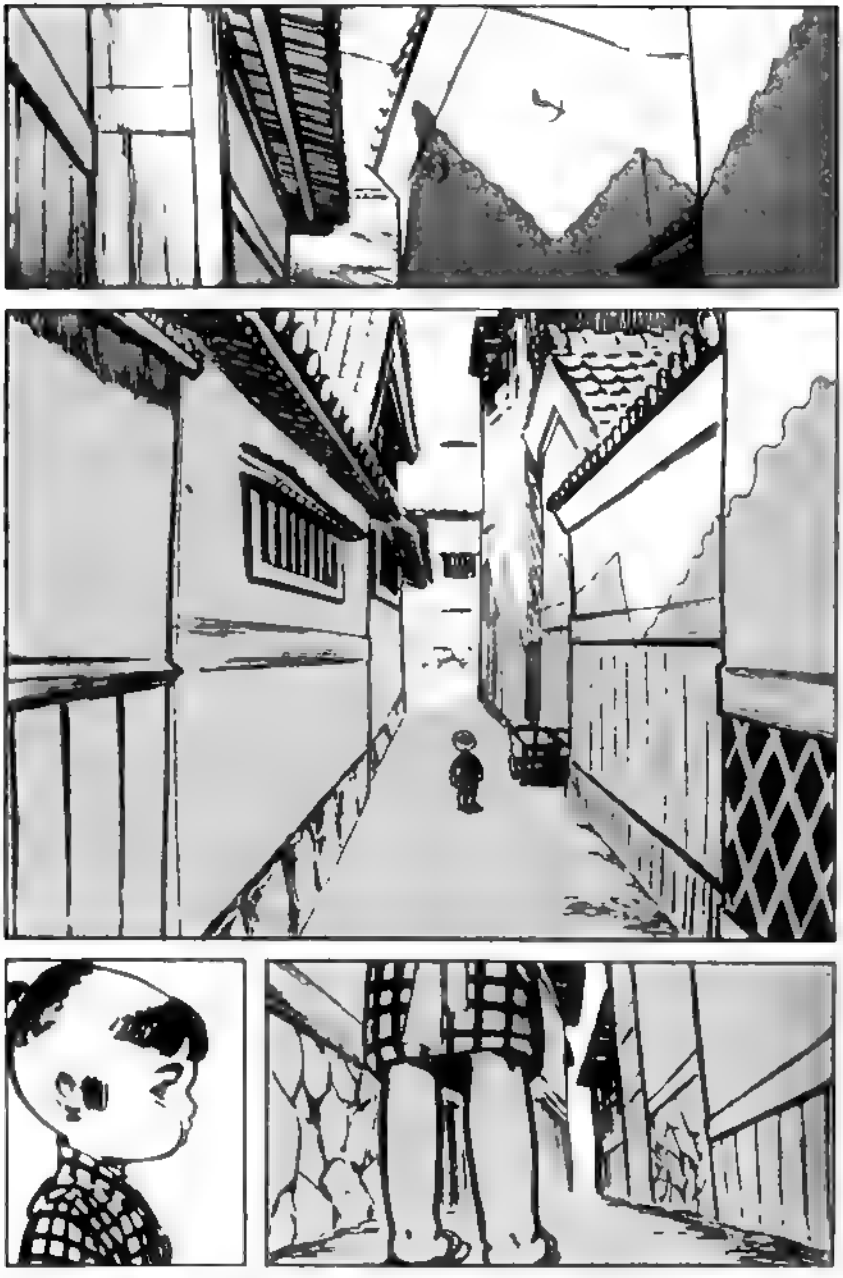
YOU DAMN KID!
STOP THAT!
WHO'S THE BRAT?
DUNNO
IGNORE HIM.
NOOO! S-STOP!
OWW!
HEY!
TOK
KLOK

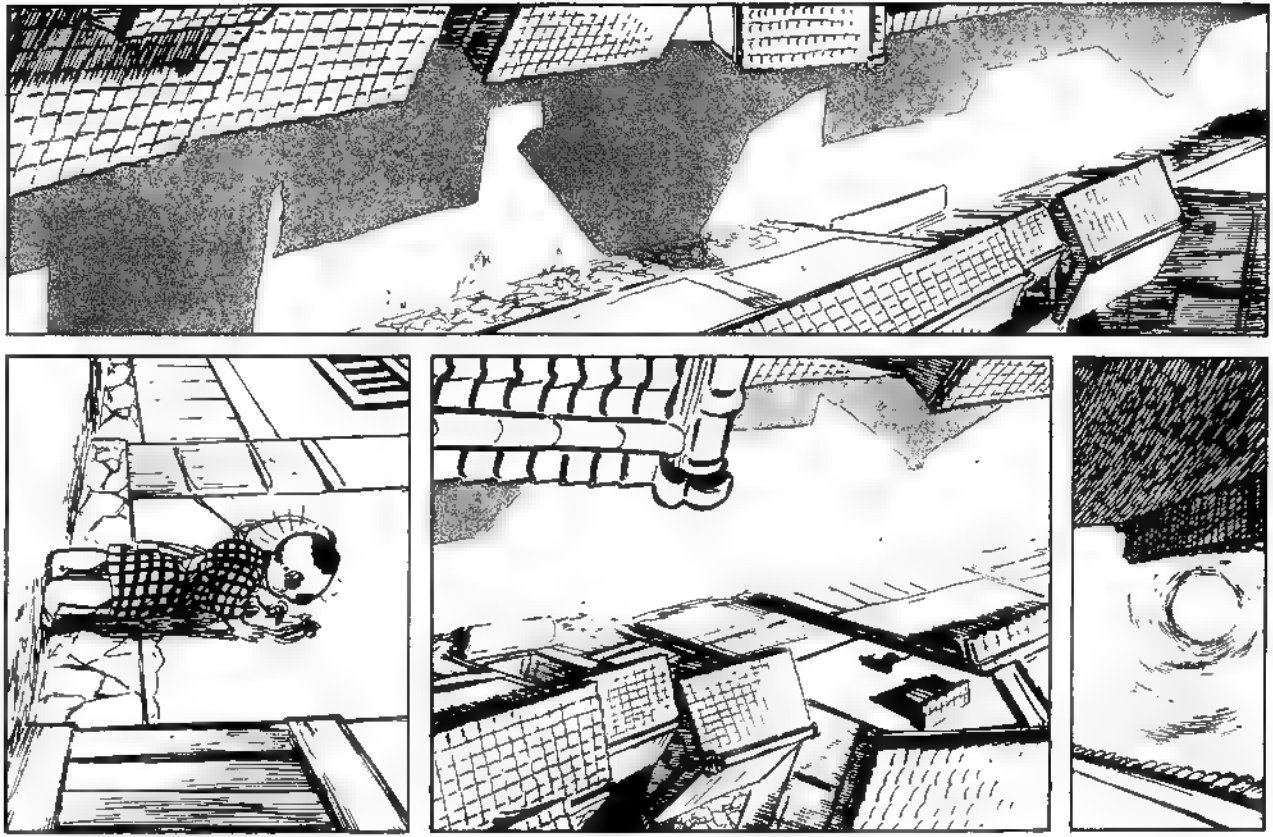
YOU LOUSY LITTLE BRAT!
SWISH!
THOK!
THAT'S ENOUGH. HE'S JUST A KID

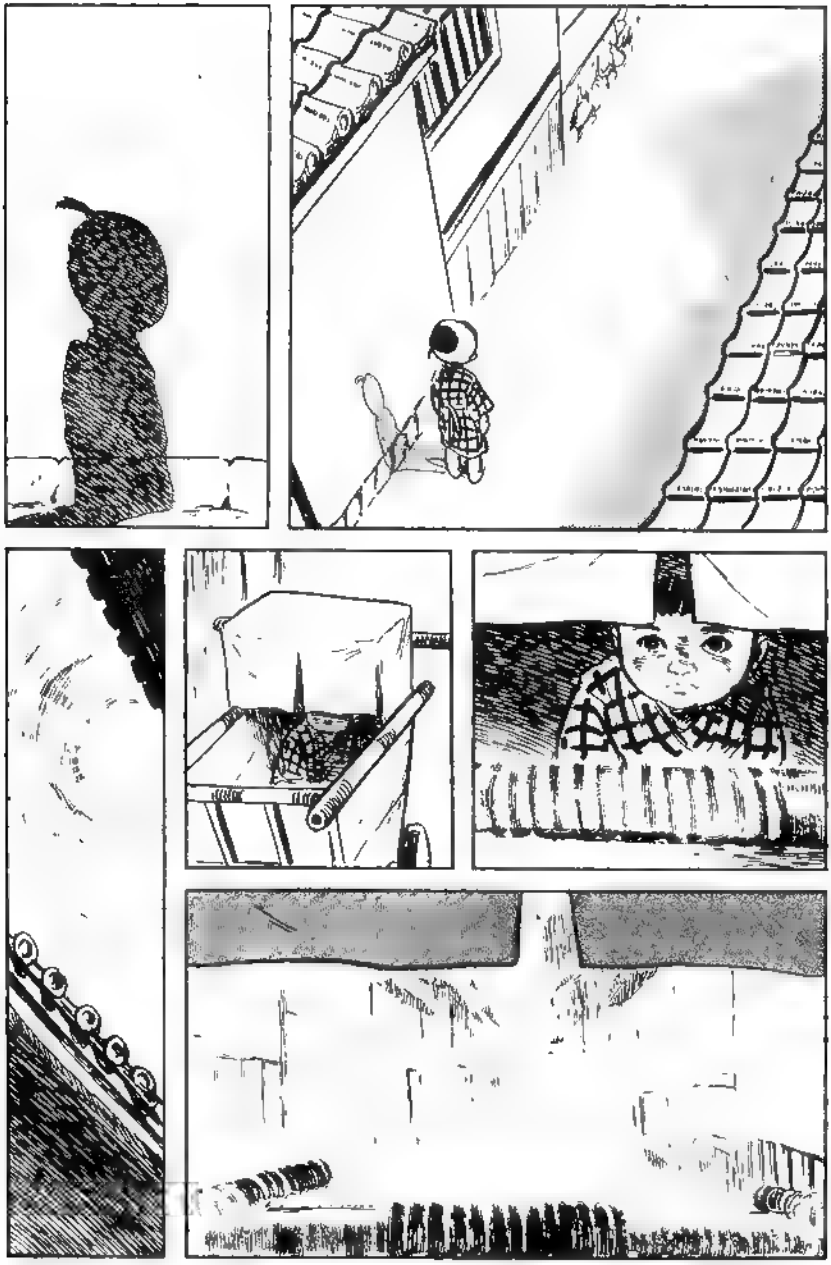
YAH?!
THAT HURT!
OW!
WHY YOU--!!
YOU'LL BE SORRY!

I SAID ENOUGH ALREADY
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR SOME CRAZY LITTLE KID
DAISY

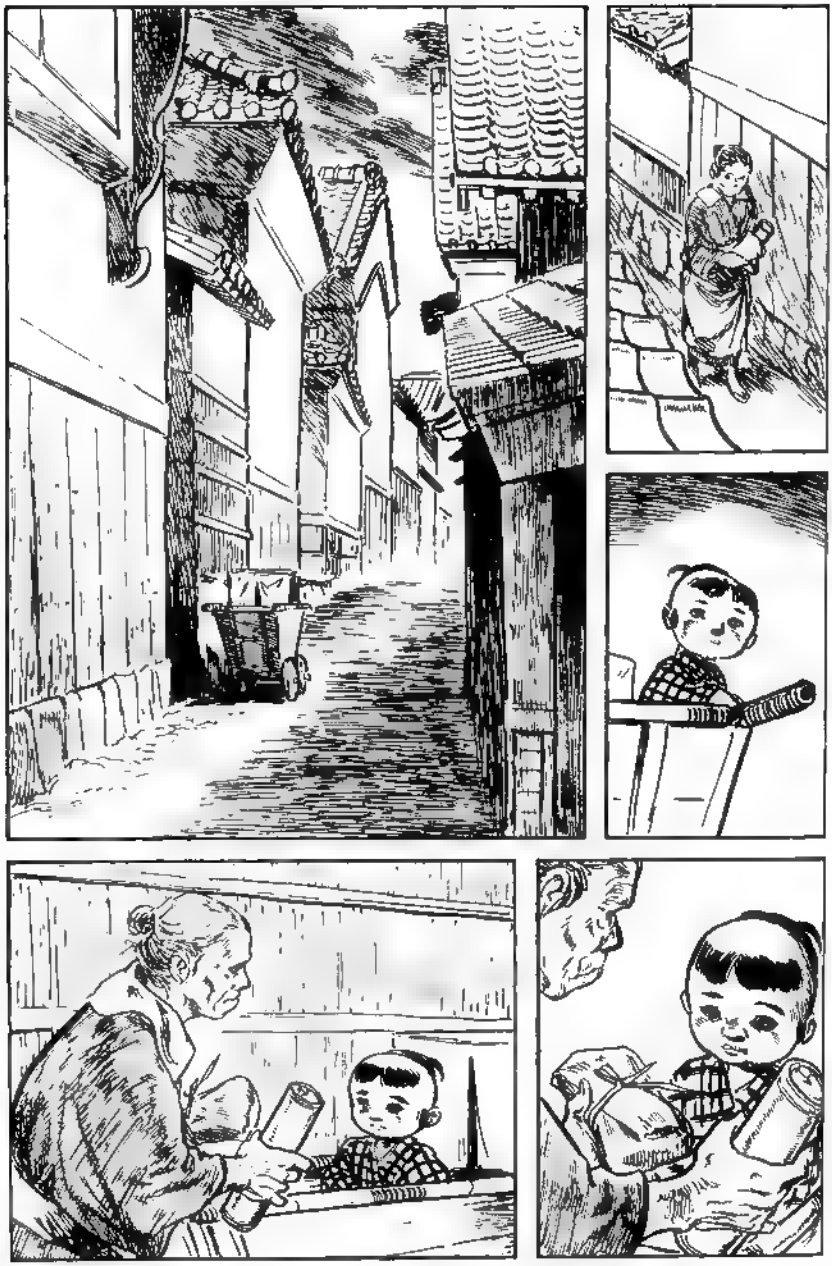








HERE'S YOUR FOOD



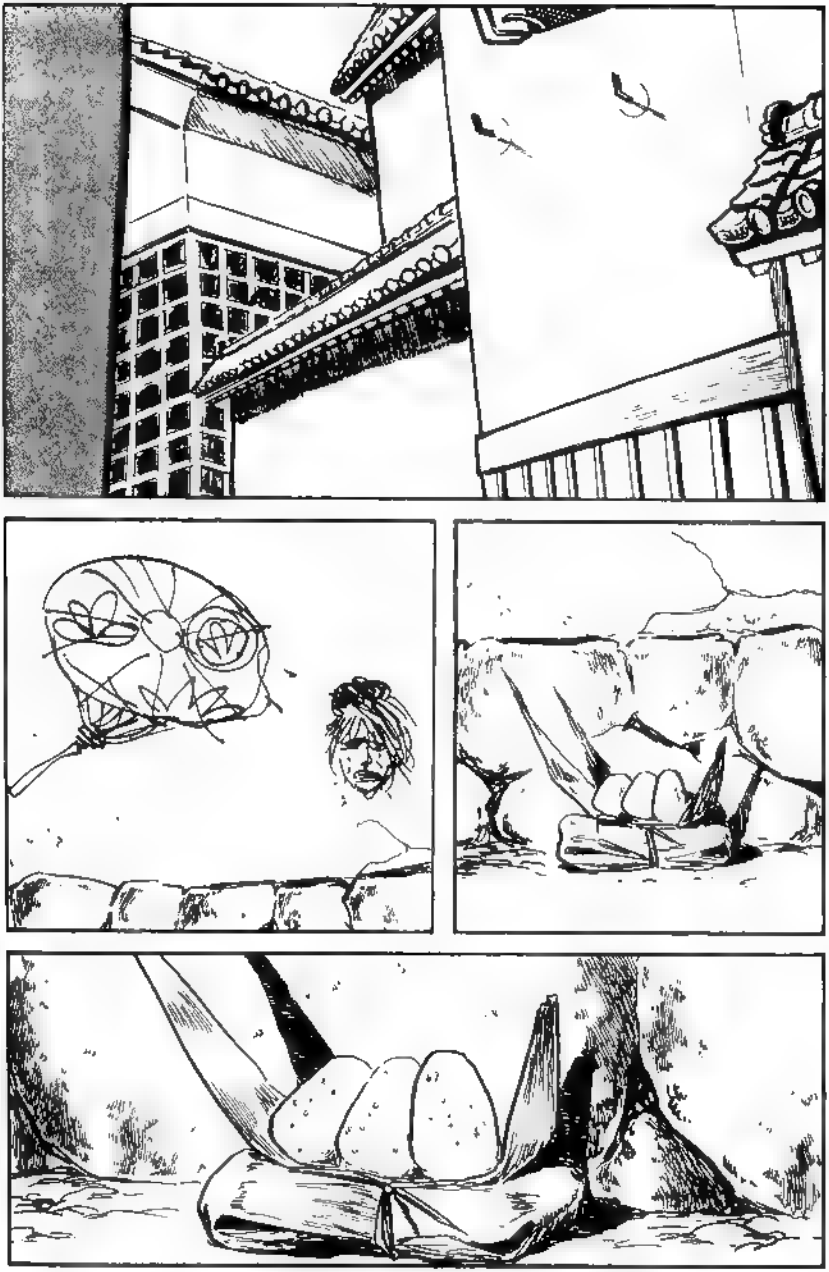
LORDY? DIDN'T YER EAT?
GOT A TUMMY ACHE?
WHAP
YER A STRANGE ONE
DON'T TALK, DON'T MAKE NICE..
WELL, LAIK FATHER, LAIK SON I GOT ME MY MONEY, SO I KEEP MY PROMISE— FOOD 'N WATER

BUT WHAT *PARENT* UP AND LEAVES HIS BOY FOR *DAYS* ON END?
AND WHAT KID JES *SITS* THERE NOT *LONELY* NOR SCAIRT NOR *NOTHING*.
....
....

PAPA.
MM.

CARA
CARA

CARA
CARA

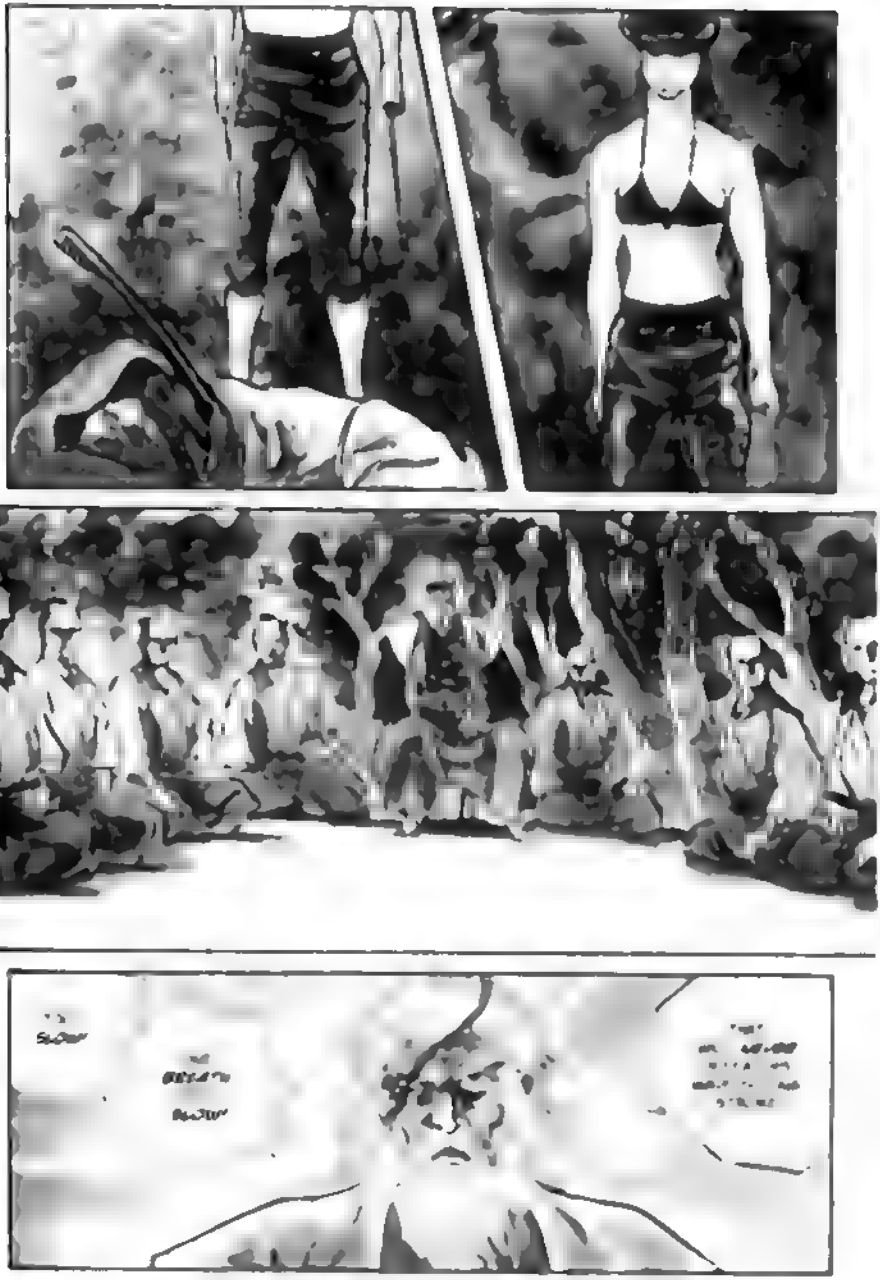


#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net
presents: Lone Wolf and Cub

the seventy-ninth

Sayaka

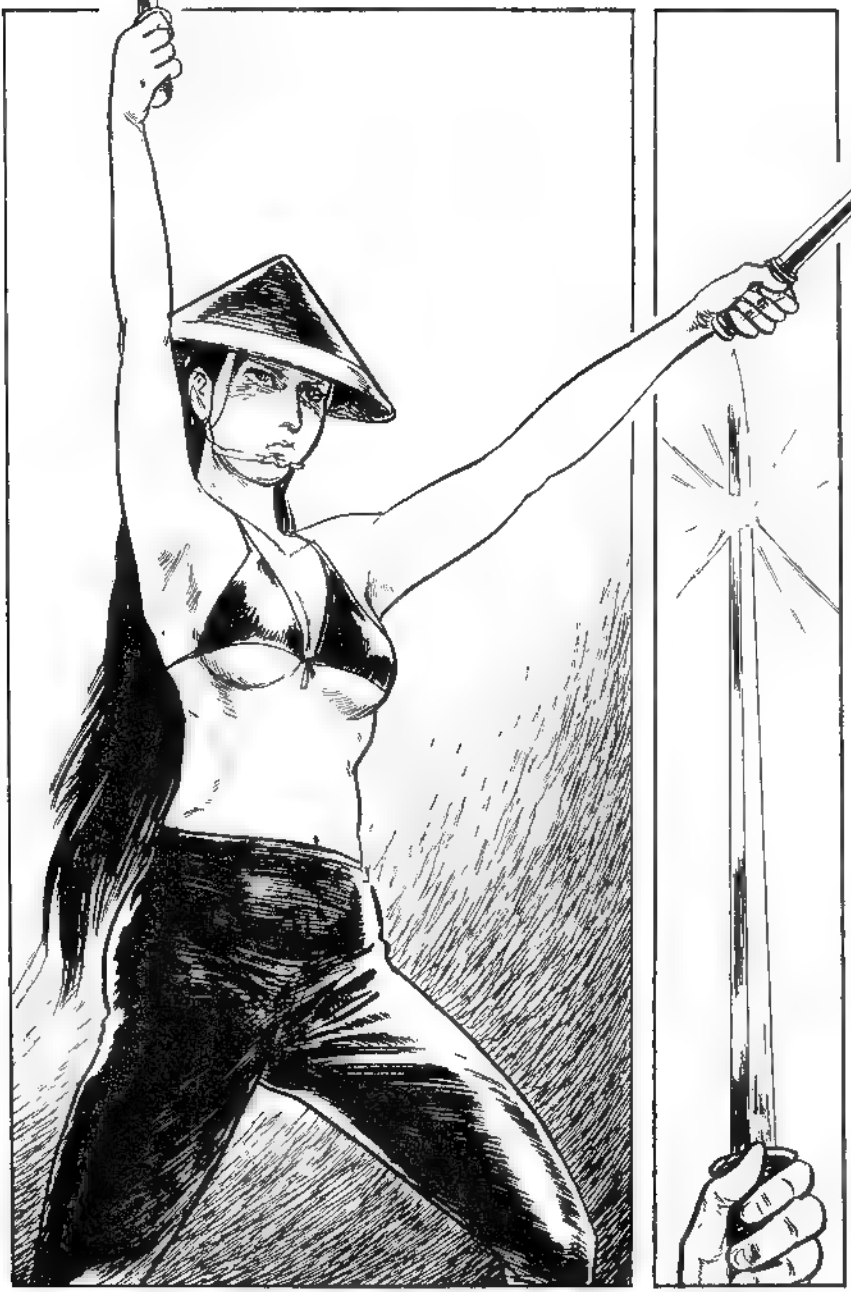
NGAHHH!

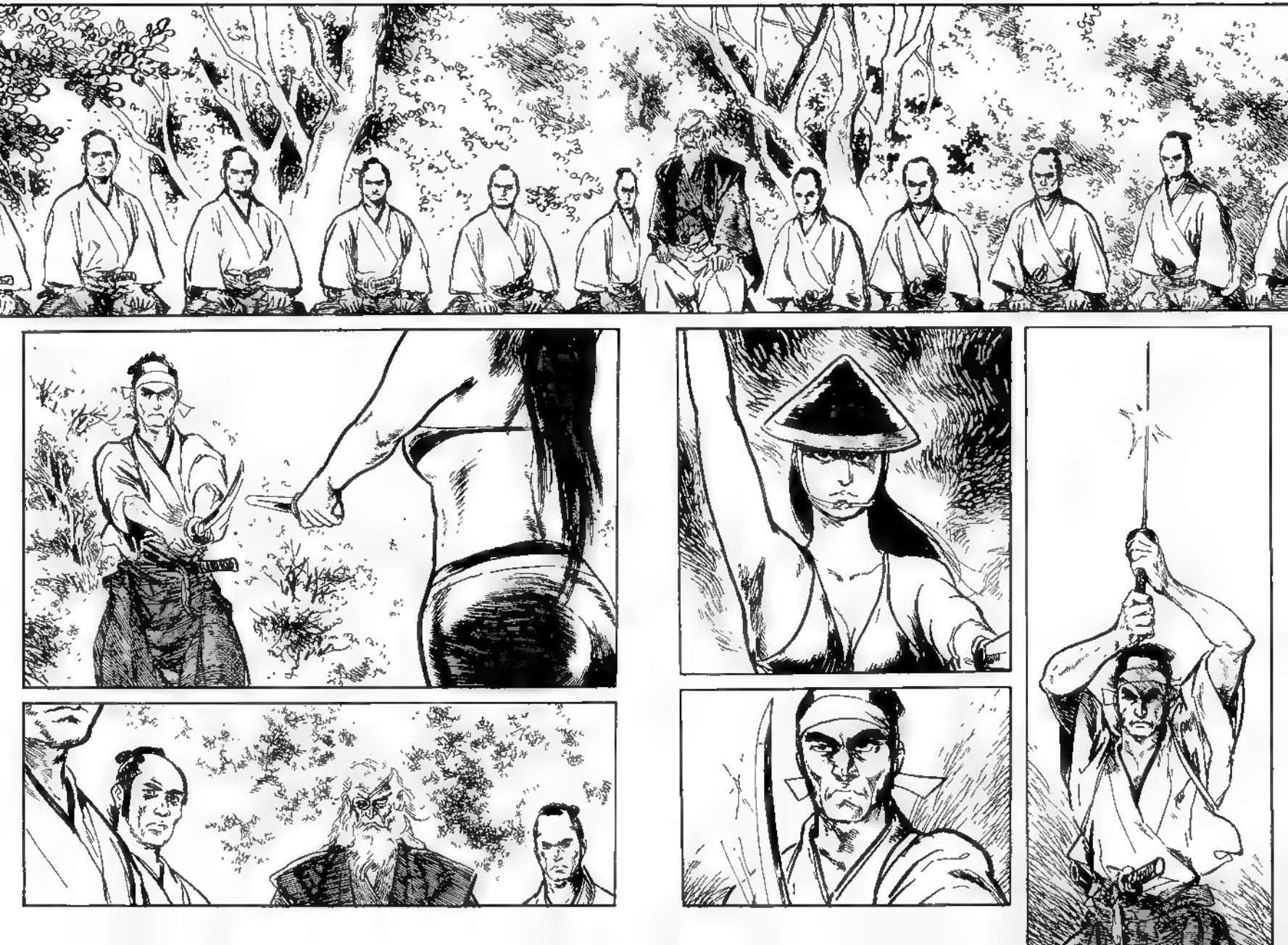


I CREATED THE O-TEDAMA DAGGER FOR SUIÔ-RYU ALONE!
I WILL DEMONSTRATE ONCE MASTER IT SAYAKA!
MY LORD!

RYAHHH!
SHANG

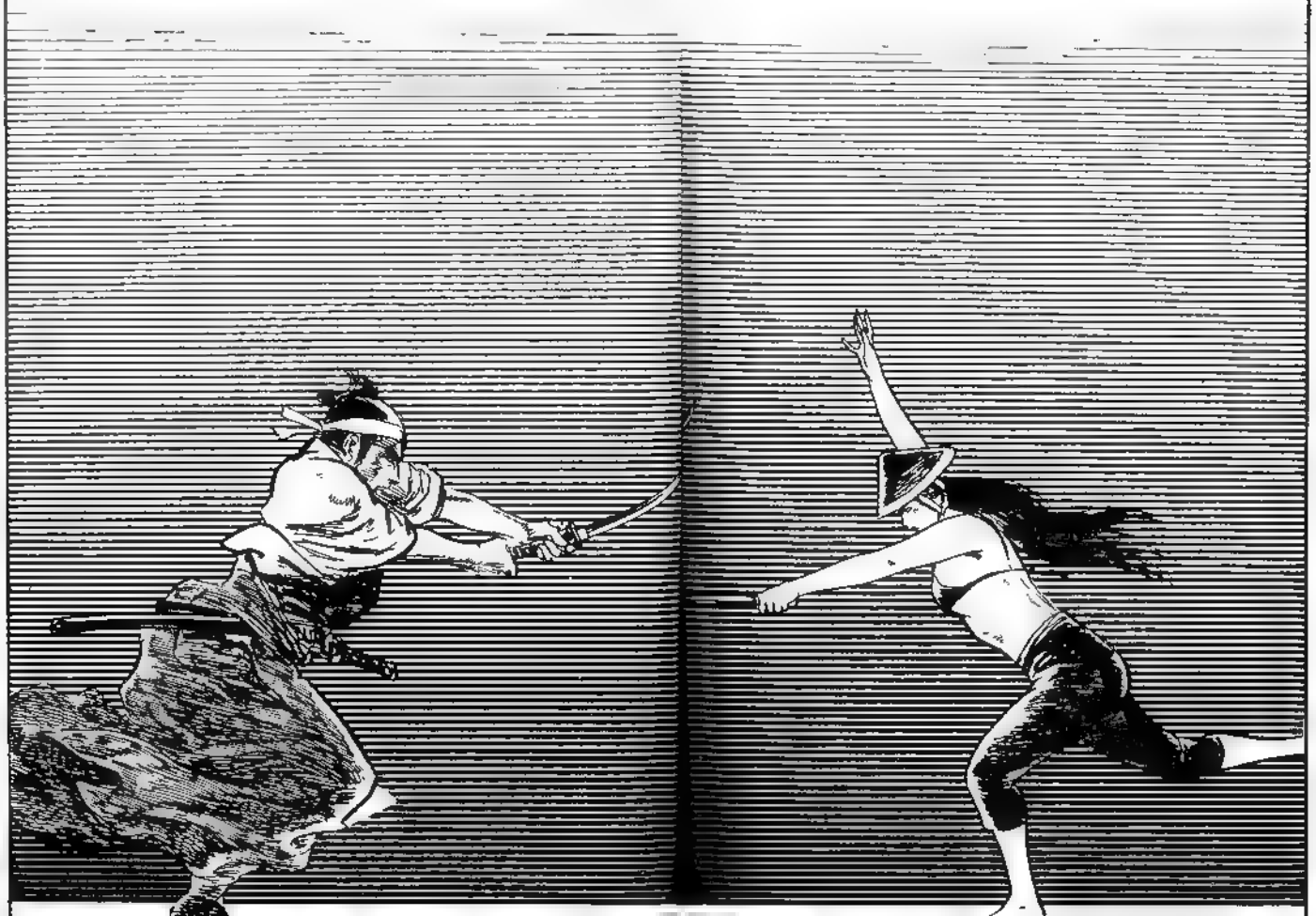
KAAANG
YES, MY LORD!
LIKE THE BREATHING OF A GIRL CHILD, LOST N HER JUGGLING.
THAT BREATH!





HYAAAAA!

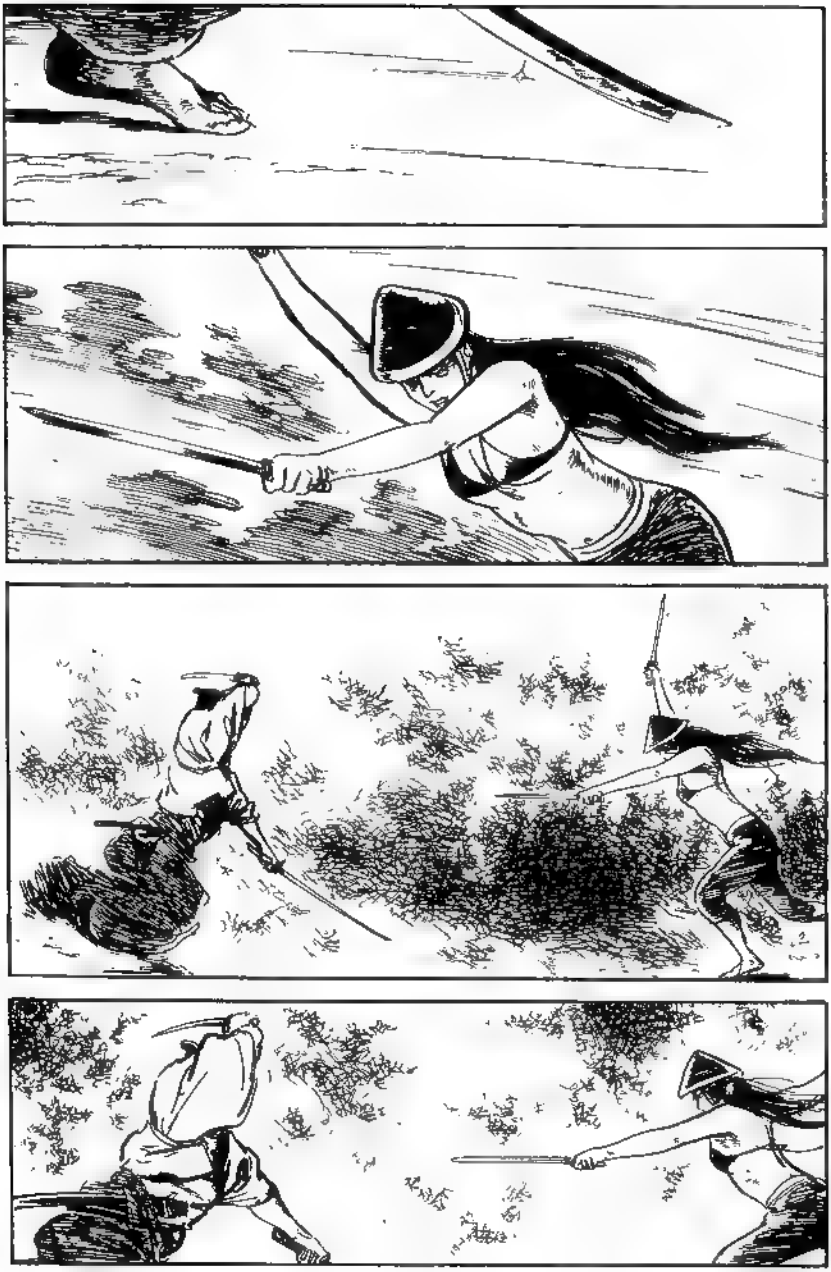
"IF HE DEFLECTS THE WHIRLING *O-TEDAMA* DAGGER SAYAKA RUNS HIM THROUGH.

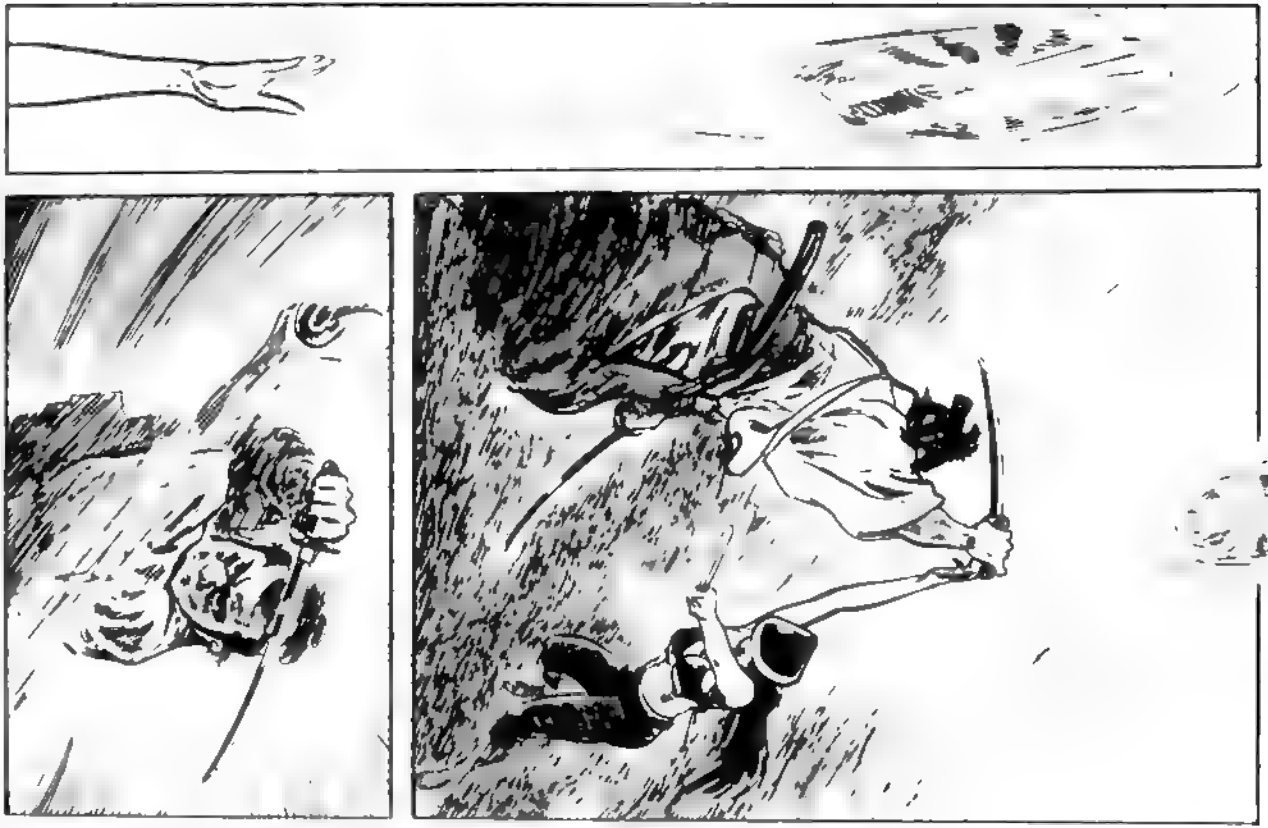


"IF HE BLOCKS HER STROKE, THE DAGGER."

K-SHI
NNG

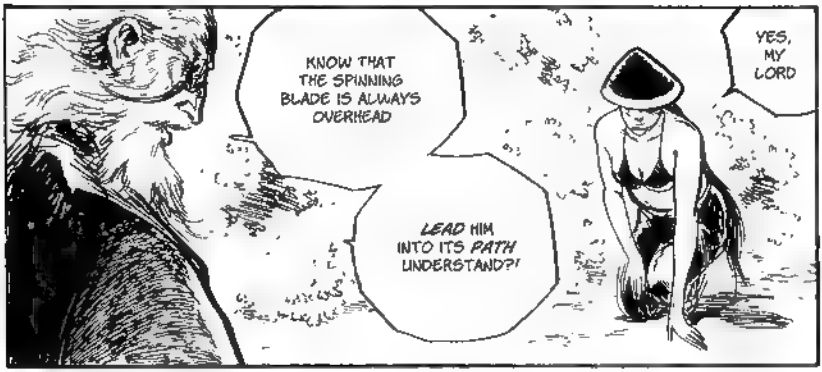
SHUKK





FANGG
CHOKK
RGH!

LIKE A GIRL'S O-TEDAMA, YOUR BLADES ARE ALWAYS SHIFTING, MATCHING YOUR OPPONENT'S MOVEMENTS.
TO SEIZE THE INSTANT, YOU MUST BARE YOUR SK.N. FEEL HIS ENERGY! READ THE BREEZE OF HIS BODY AS YOU CAST YOUR O-TEDAMA DAGGER.


KNOW THAT THE SPINNING BLADE IS ALWAYS OVERHEAD
LEAD HIM INTO ITS PATH UNDERSTAND?!
YES, MY LORD

YOUR LIVES WILL NOT BE WASTED
FORGIVE ME.

SAYAKA.
MY LORD ?

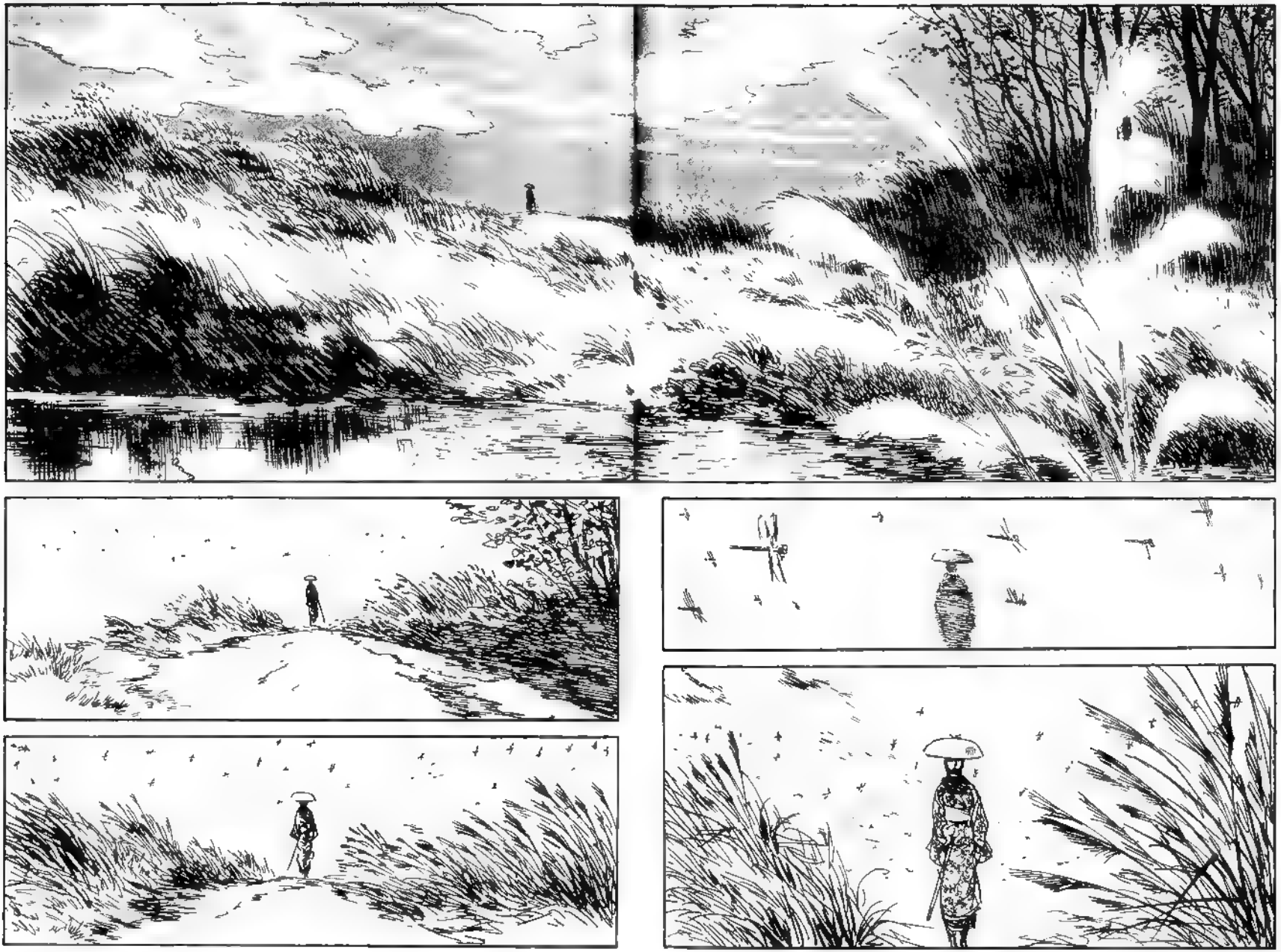
WE MUST END THIS LONG BATTLE.
SHOULD IT HAPPEN THAT YOU DIE

WE ARE THE LAST OF OUR CLAN, YOU AND I YOU ARE THE URA-YAGYŪ'S FINAL ACE. KILL THE KILLER OF YOUR BROTHERS! KILL ŌGAMI ITTŌ AND HIS ONLY SON, DAIGORO!
YES, MY LORD!

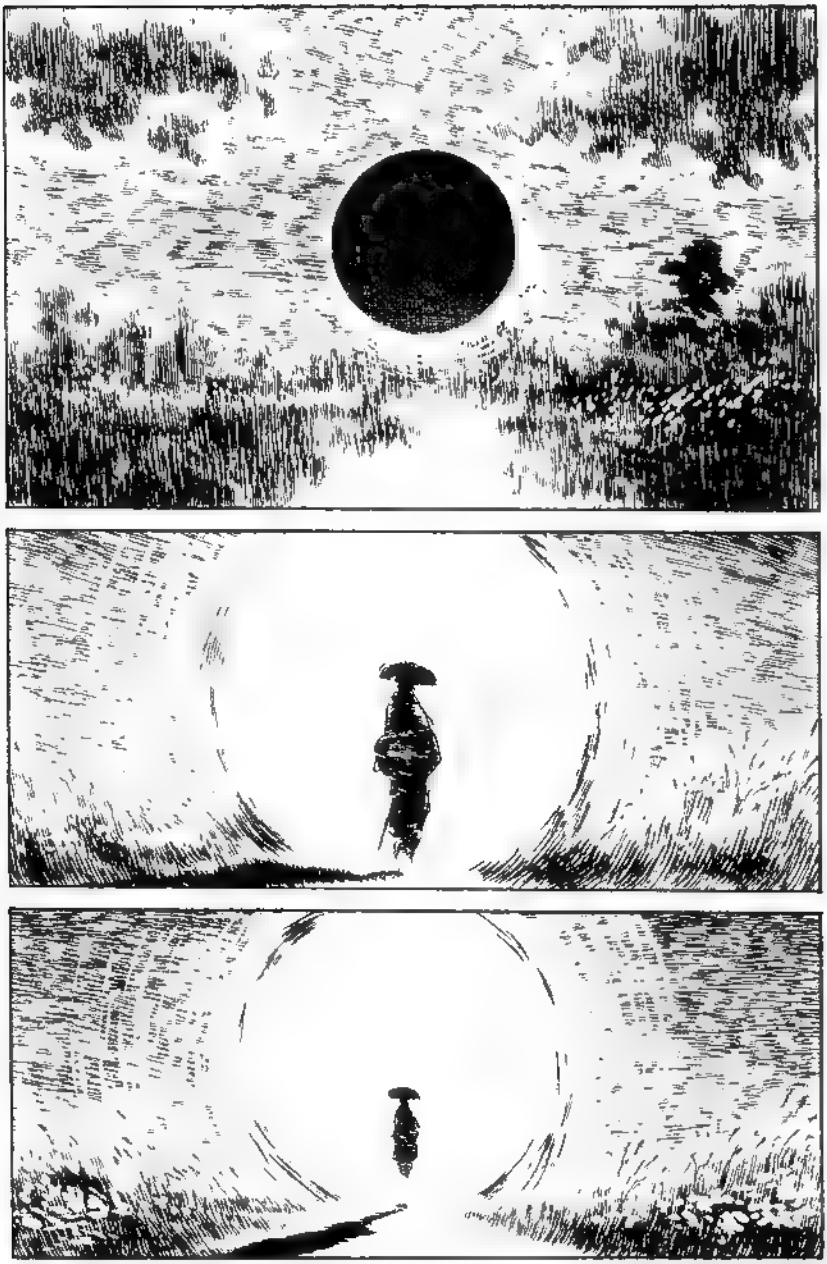
THE YAGYŪ WILL TURN ITS FULL FORCE OF ARMS UPON ITTO, REGARDLESS OF THE EYES OF THE WORLD!
UNTIL NOW WE HAVE FOUGHT IN THE SHADOWS, SEEKING TO SETTLE THIS IN SECRECY BUT F MY LAST CHILD IS GONE, IT WILL MEAN A FRONTAL ASSAULT

I WILL COMMAND THE DAIMYŌ, MOBILIZE THE OFFICERS ON SHŌGUNATE LANDS, MOBILIZE THE ENTIRE MIGHT OF THE YAGYŪ TO BURY THAT MAN.
YET IF WE CALL OUT ARMIES TO KILL A SINGLE RŌNIN, THE YAGYŪ NAME WILL BE BLACKENED FOR ALL TIME.
AND SO, SAYAKA..
YES, MY LORD
I PRAY WE WILL BE SPARED..
BY YOUR SKILL
.....
IT'S TIME TO PART SET FORTH! THE KUROKUWA SHALL GUIDE YOU TO HIM.
MY LORD!

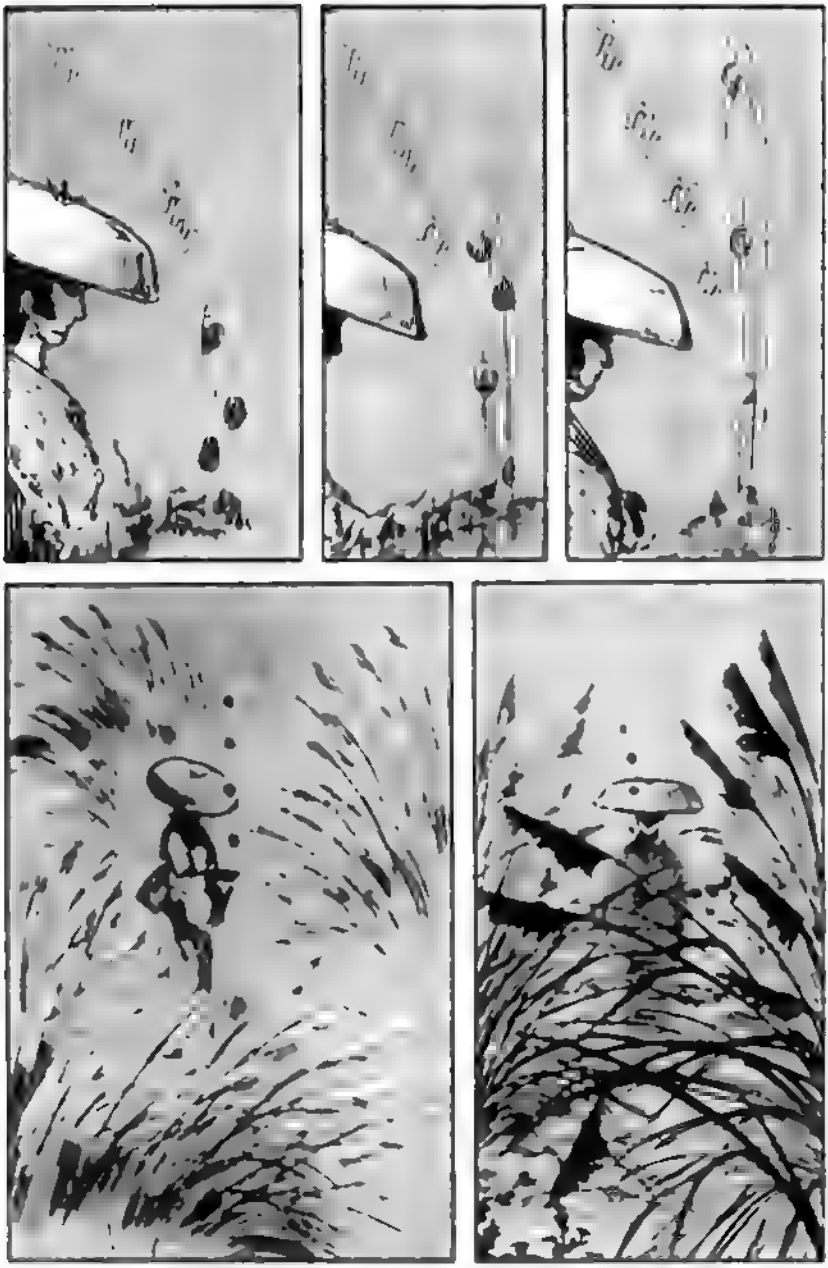
THE GREAT DIVIDE!
WE END THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
BY FRONTAL ASSAULT IF NEED BE



*THE WOLF IS IN THE WEST

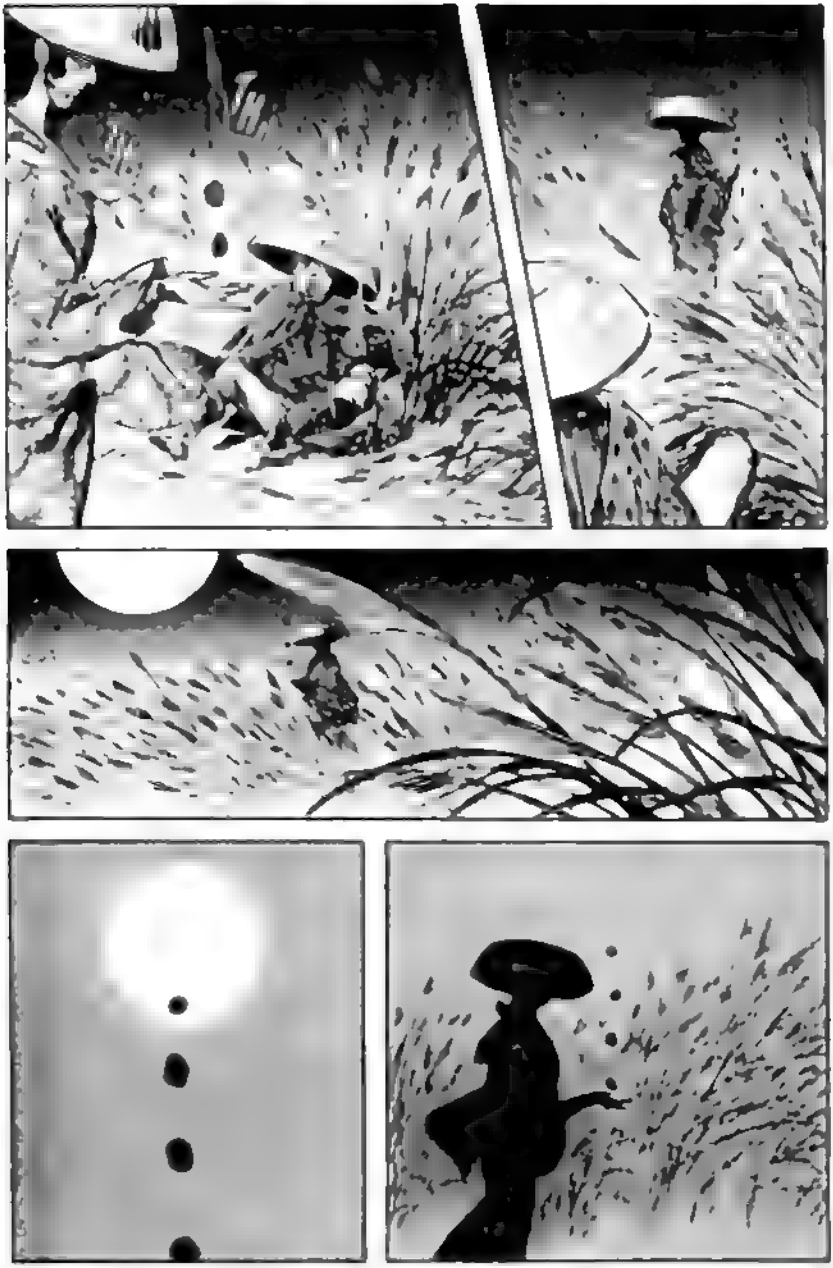


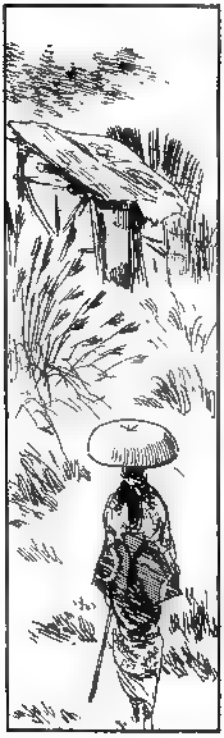
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP



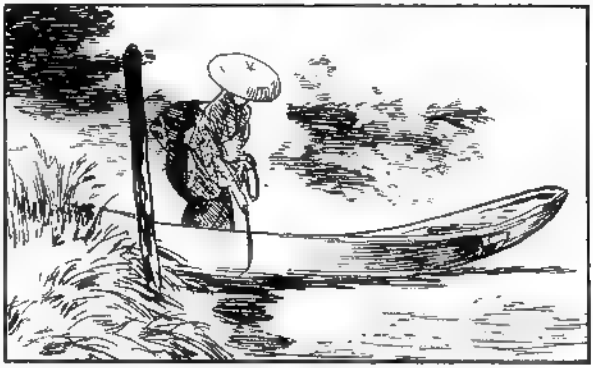
A
KITTLANG!

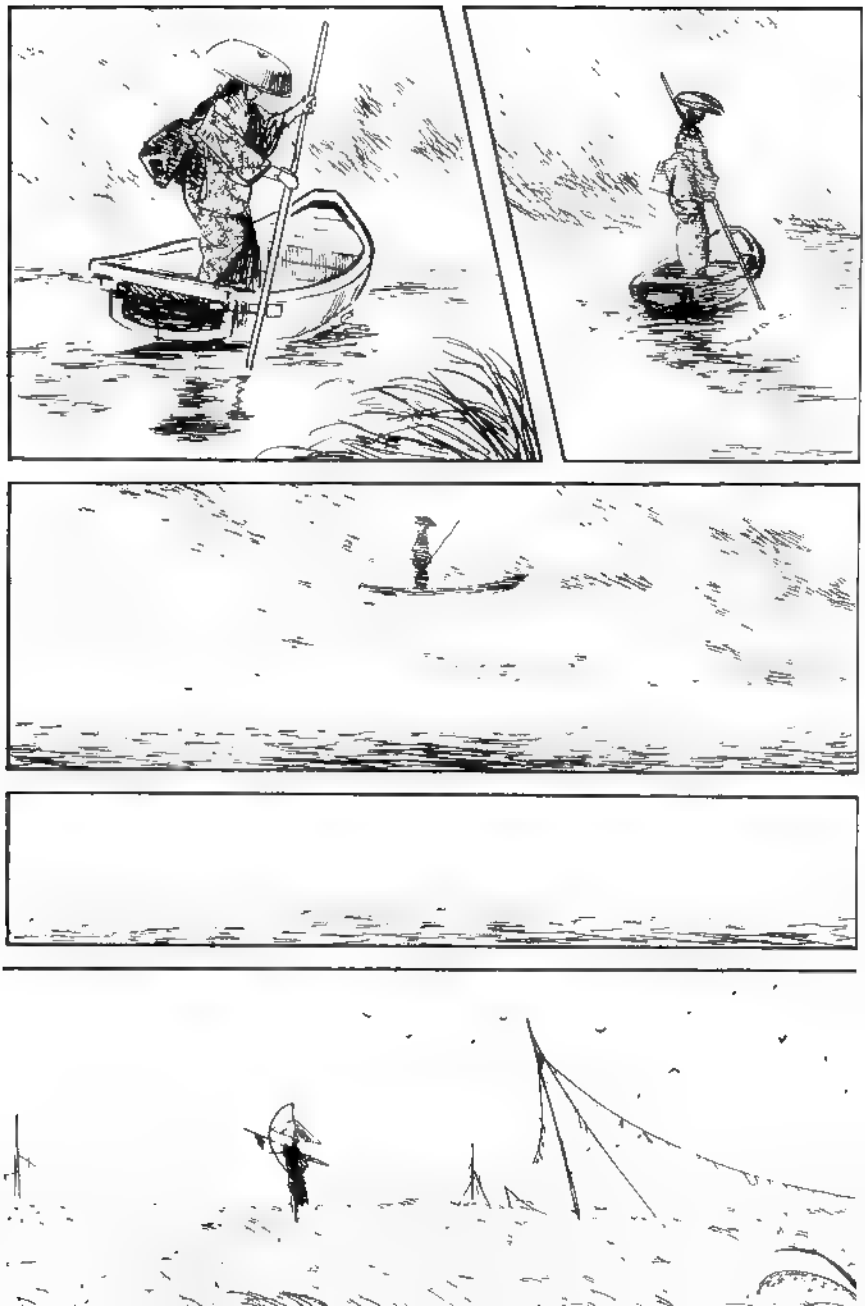
P FOX WOMAN!!
O!EGGGE!!

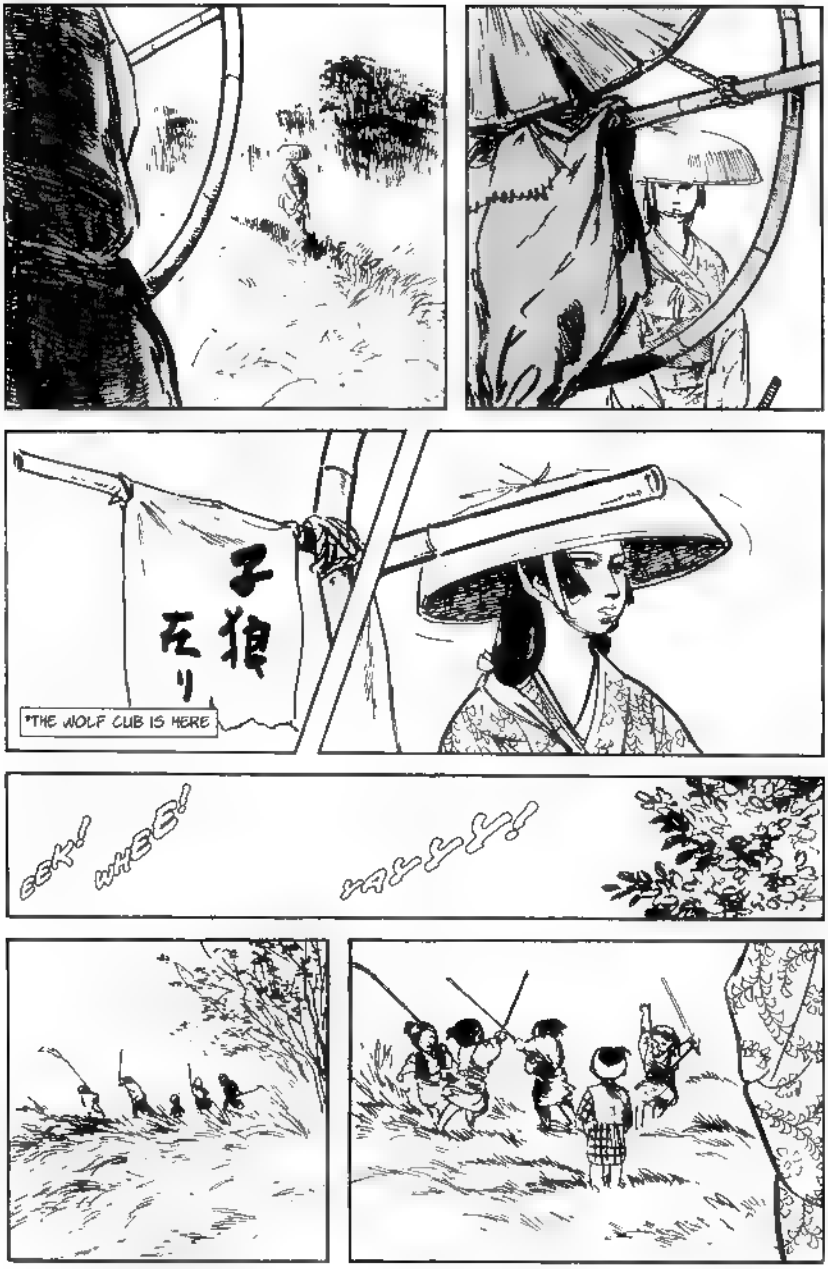




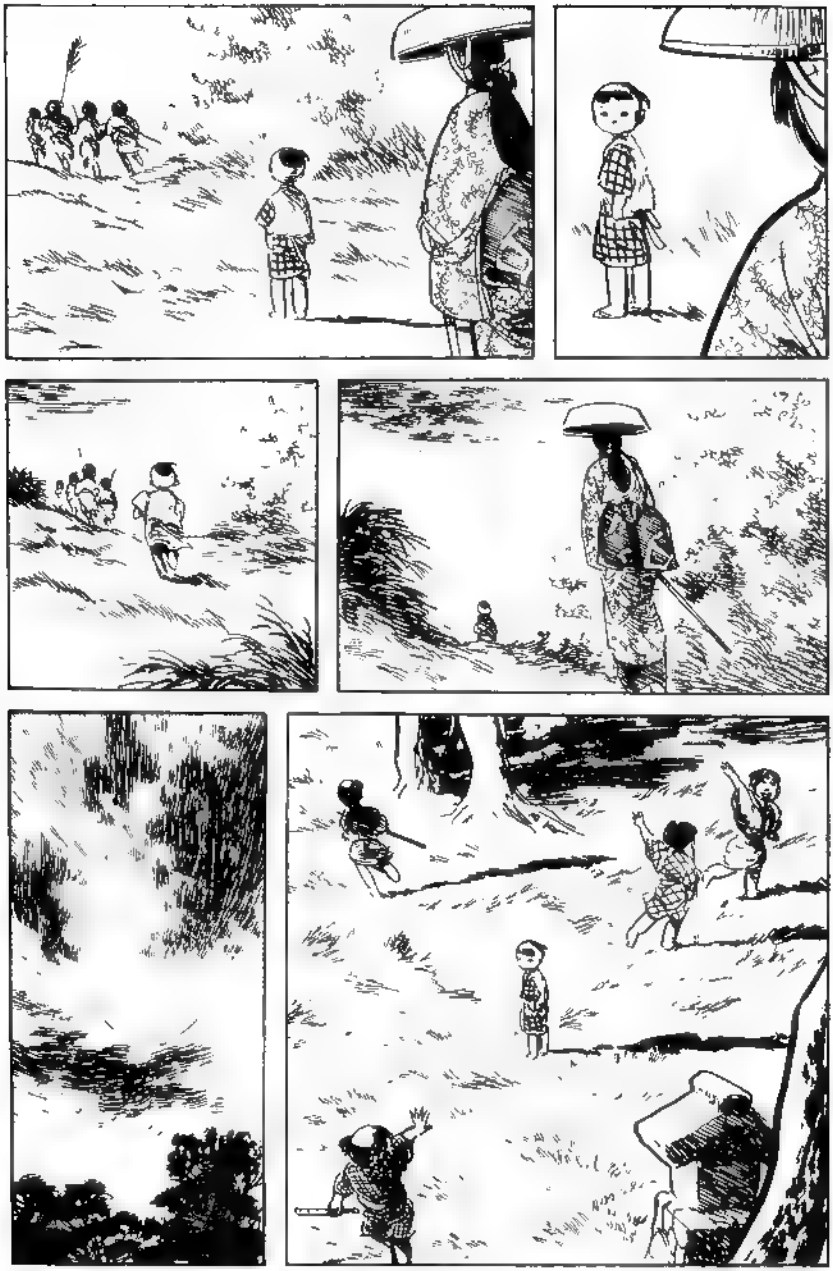
*THE WOLF CROSSES TO THE EAST
狼渡りて東へ

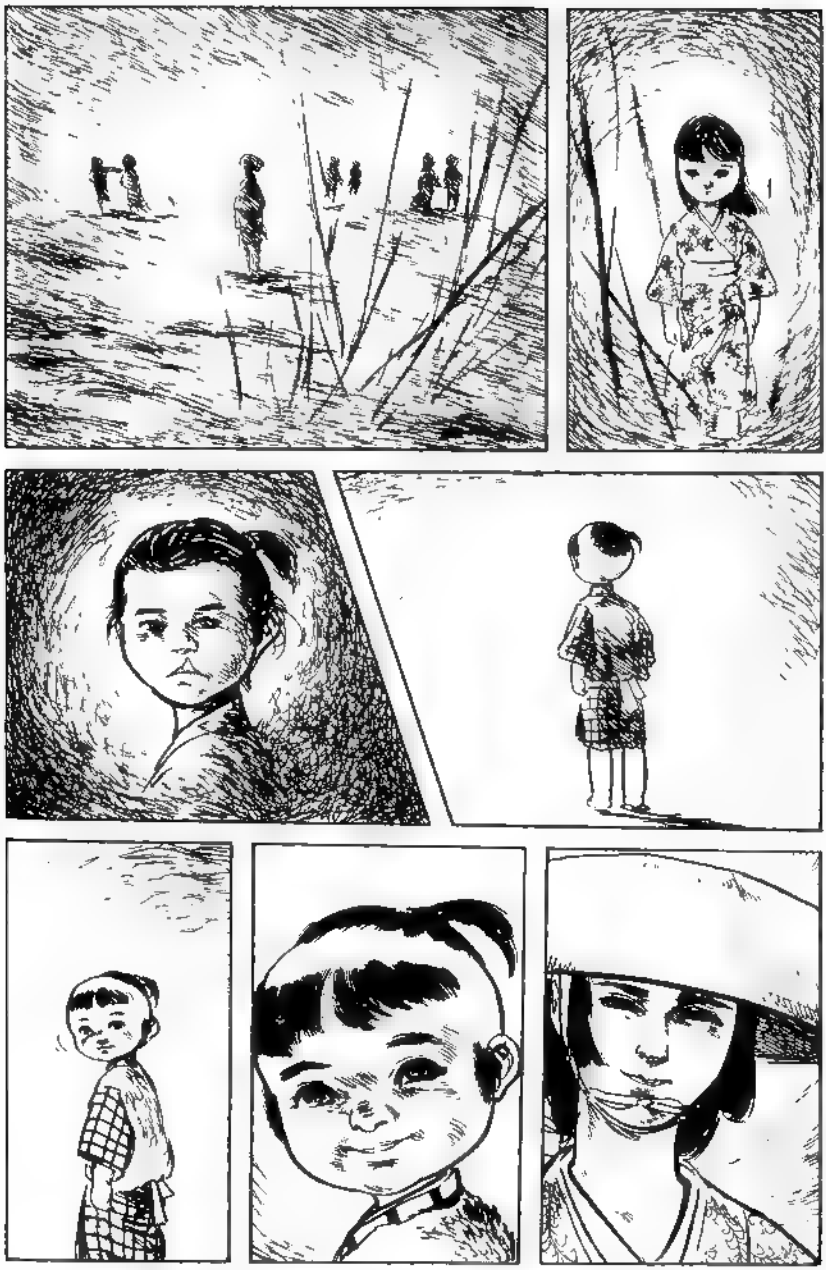


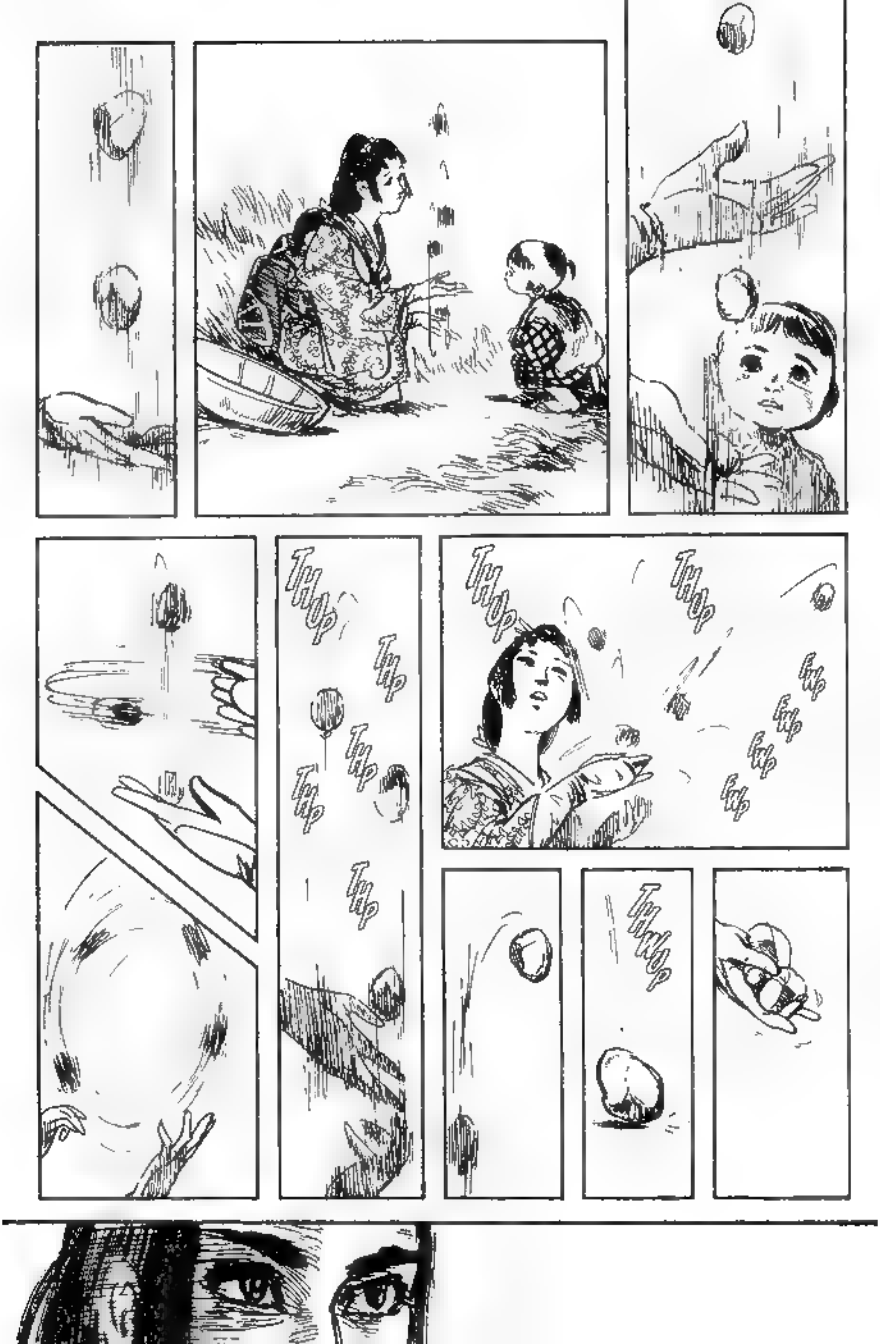



子狼在り
*THE WOLF CUB IS HERE
GEK!
WHEE!
HAHAHA!

WHICH ONE IS HE...?
DAIGORO!
THIS BOY...?






Thup
Thup
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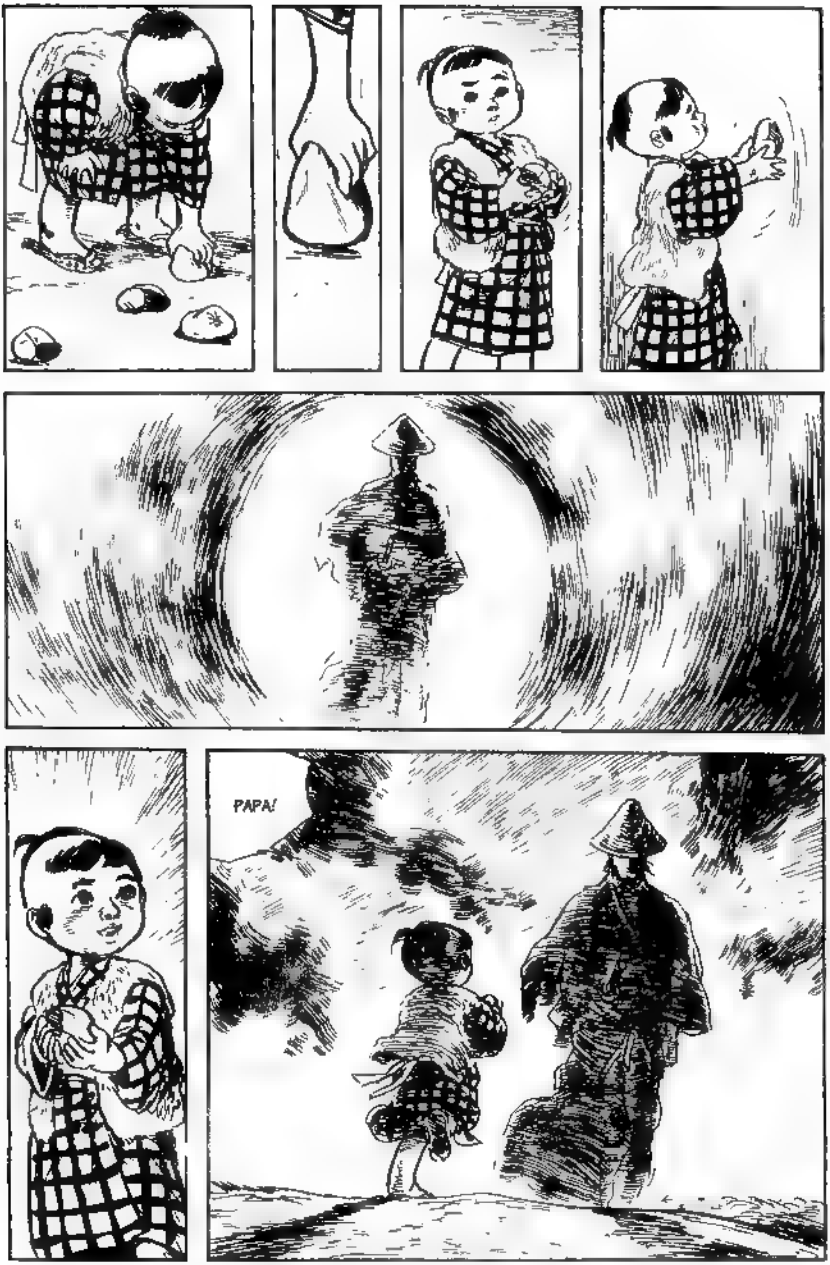
Thup

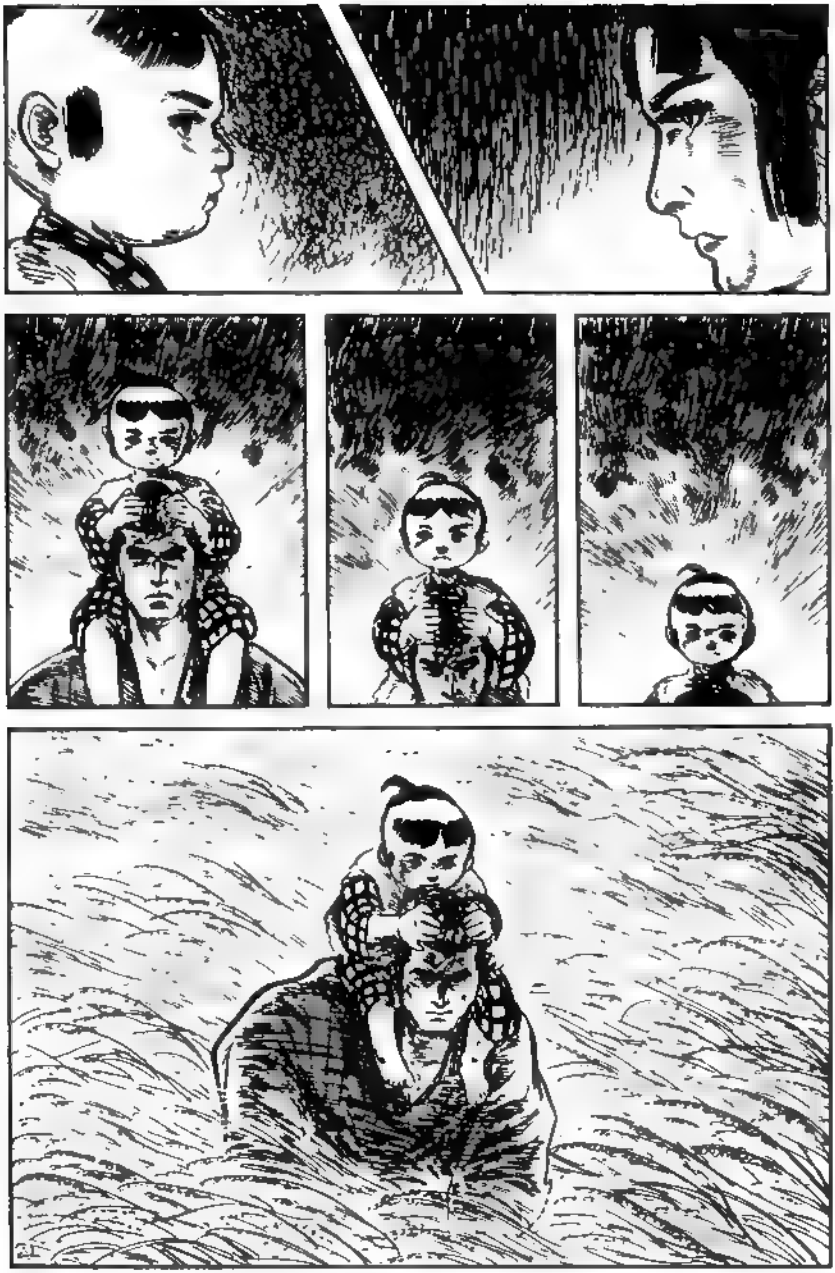

PAPA!

TEDAMA..
FILLED
WITH IRON
FILINGS?

THUP

SAYAKA! SISTER OF DEBUCHI SHOGI! KŌJIRO YASHU!
FOUR GENERATIONS ENDED BY MY HAND! I AM THE LAST YASHU!

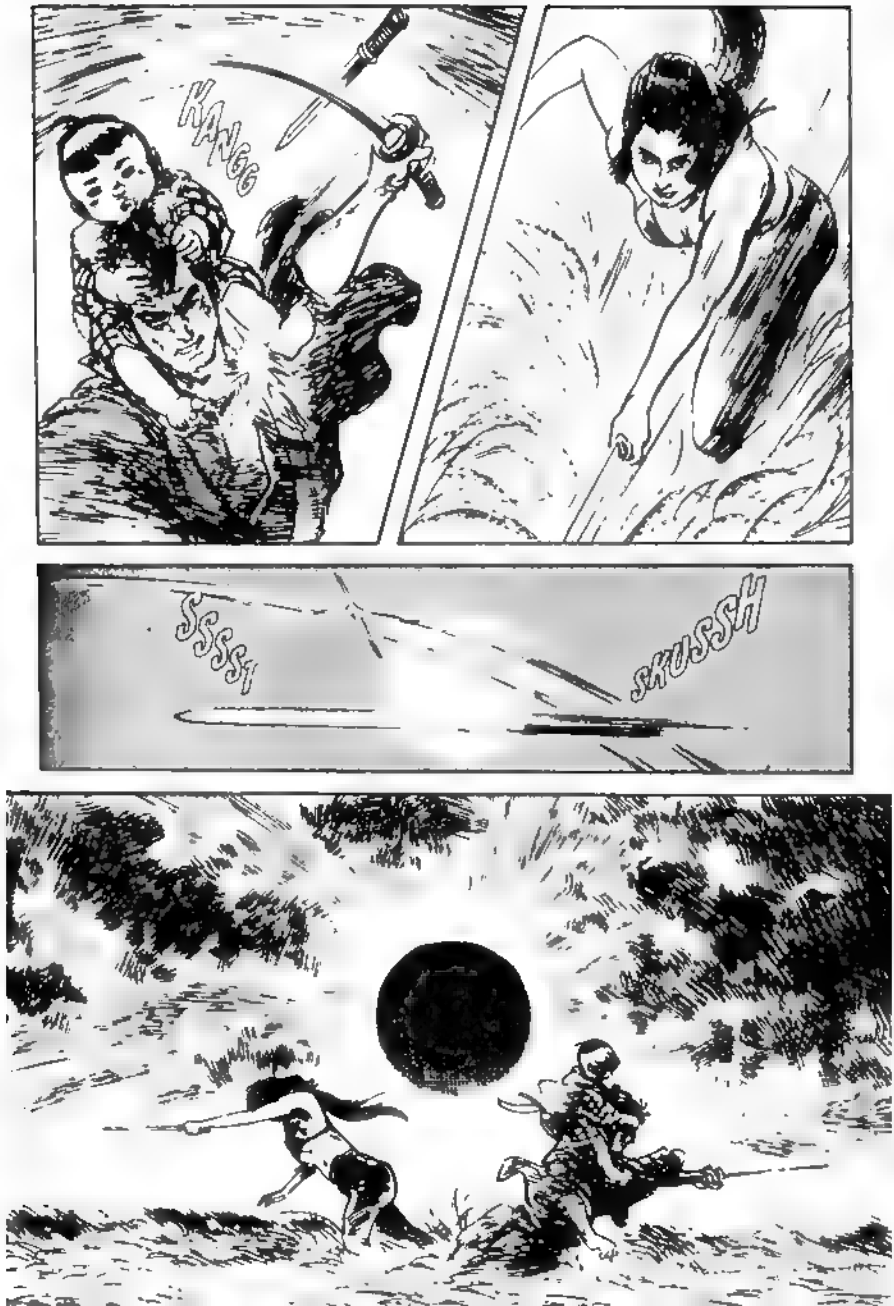
ŌGAMI ITTŌ! FATHER AND SON, I TAKE YOUR LIVES!
CHK
YOU SAID BROTHERS.
I AM RETSUDŌ'S DAUGHTER
COME!



THE ONLY WAY TO DEFEAT

KING

FAUX !

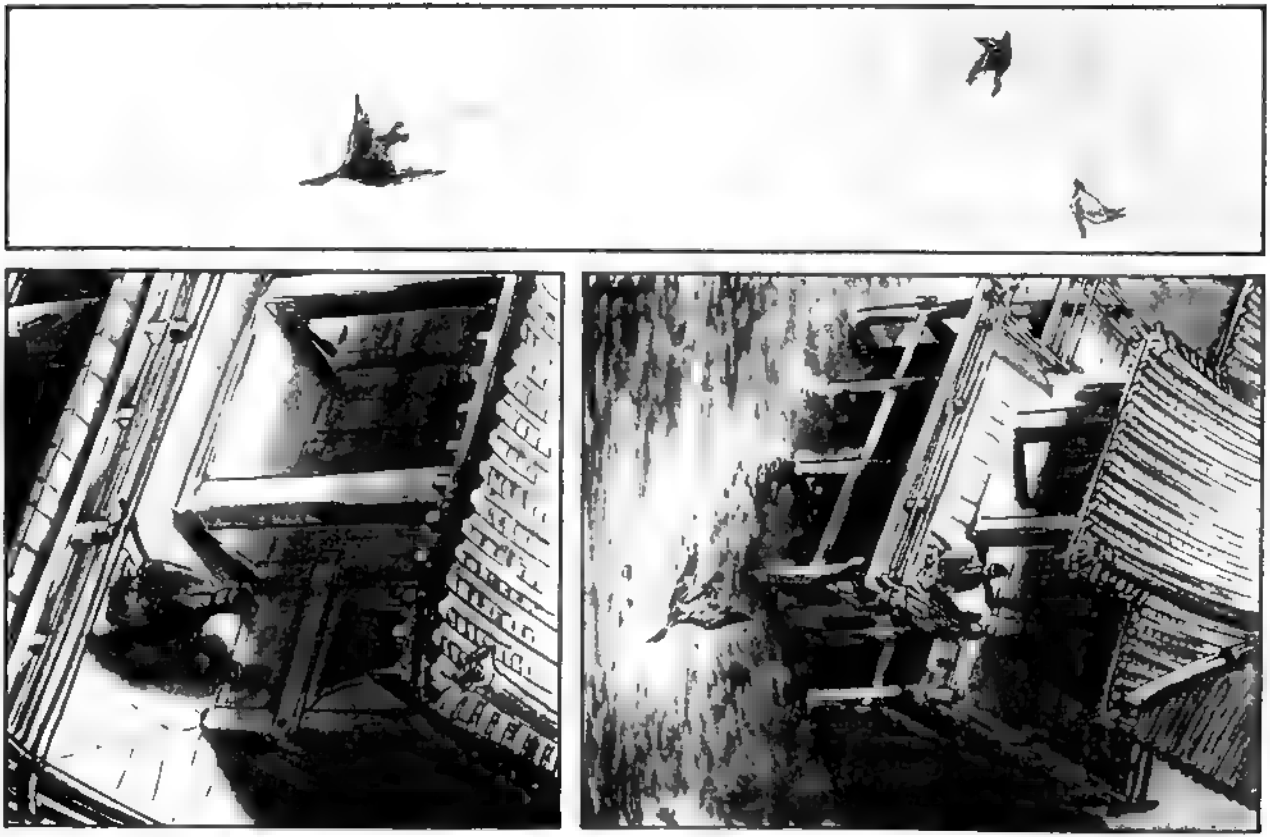

KANGG
SSSSS
SKUSSH

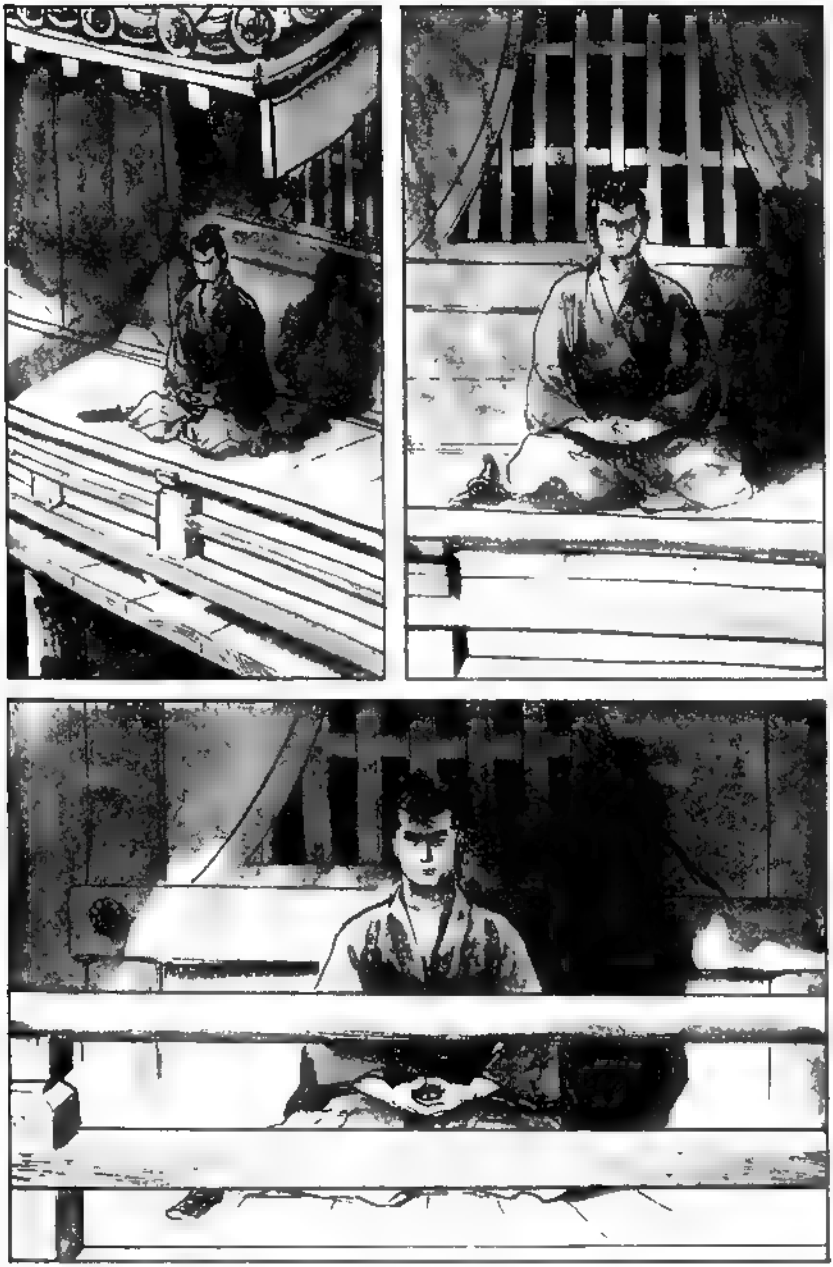
YOUR BOY ON YOUR SHOULDERS WHY?
YOU READ MY DAGGER BUT USED HIM AS A SHIELD
SUCH COWARDICE
IN A FATHERLY
WE LIVE IN MIFUMADO SPURNING THE SIX WAYS, THE FOUR LIVES.
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF YOU WANTED BOTH OUR LIVES

#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net
presents: Lone Wolf and Cub

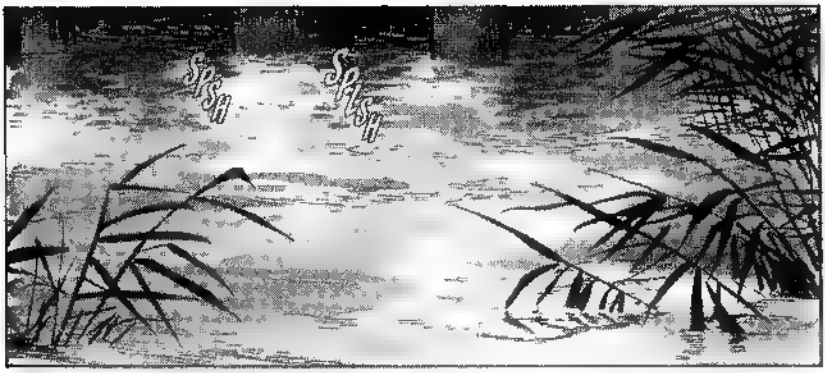
the eightieth

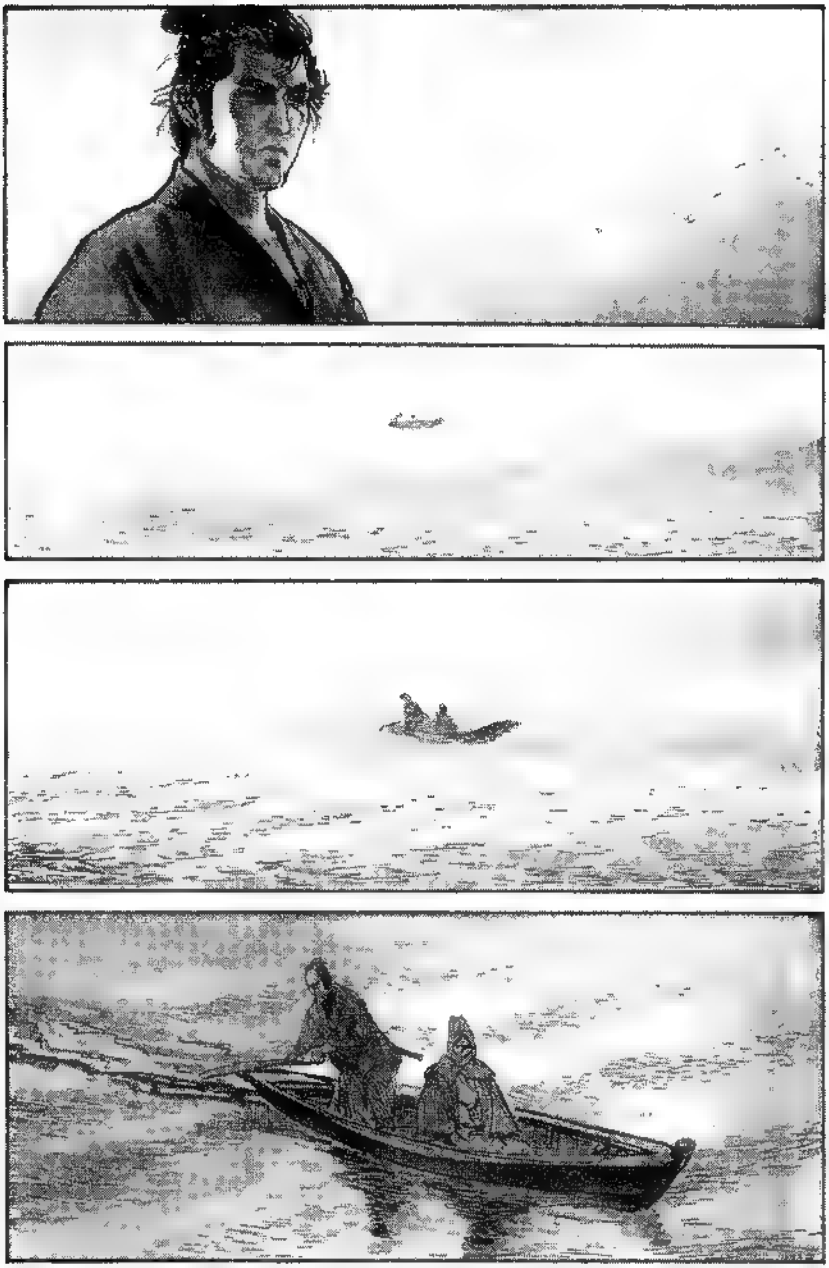
Clouds of Silk

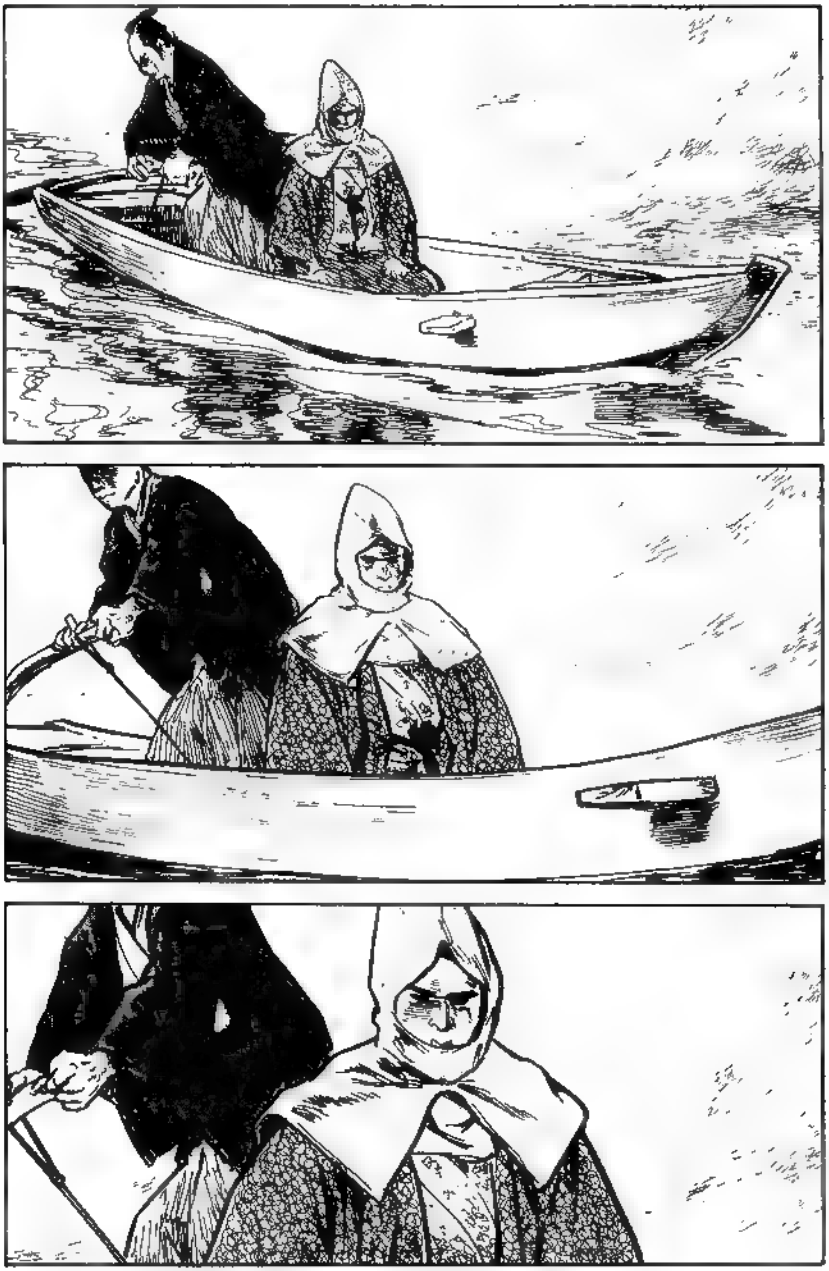


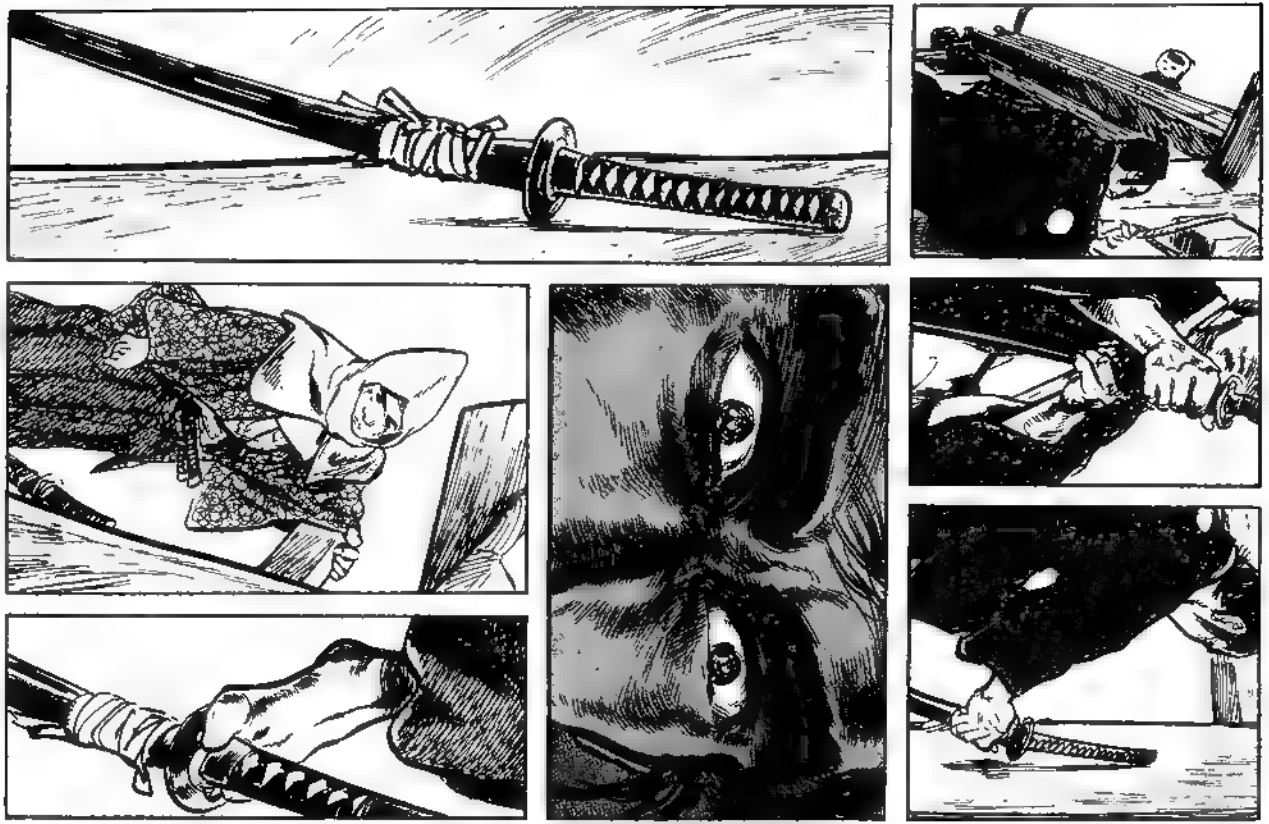


KATATA, ON
THE SHORES
OF LAKE BIWA


SPSH
SPLSH







SHIRAI YŪEMON.
Ō-BANGASHIRA
OF ZEZE HAN
ASSASSIN,
LONE WOLF
AND CUB.

WE AGREED BY TRAIL MARKER TO MEET AT *NIGHT*. EXPLAIN!
A REASONABLE REQUEST. A PROMISE MUST BE KEPT, ASSUMING WE *HIRE* YOU.
HOWEVER, WHILE I REGRET WASTING YOUR TIME, I'M HERE TO *REFUSE*.
CIRCUMSTANCES FORCE US TO CANCEL.
FIFTY *RYŌ* IN COMPENSATION.
FORGIVE OUR IMPUDENCE, AND ACCEPT IT IN GOOD FAITH.

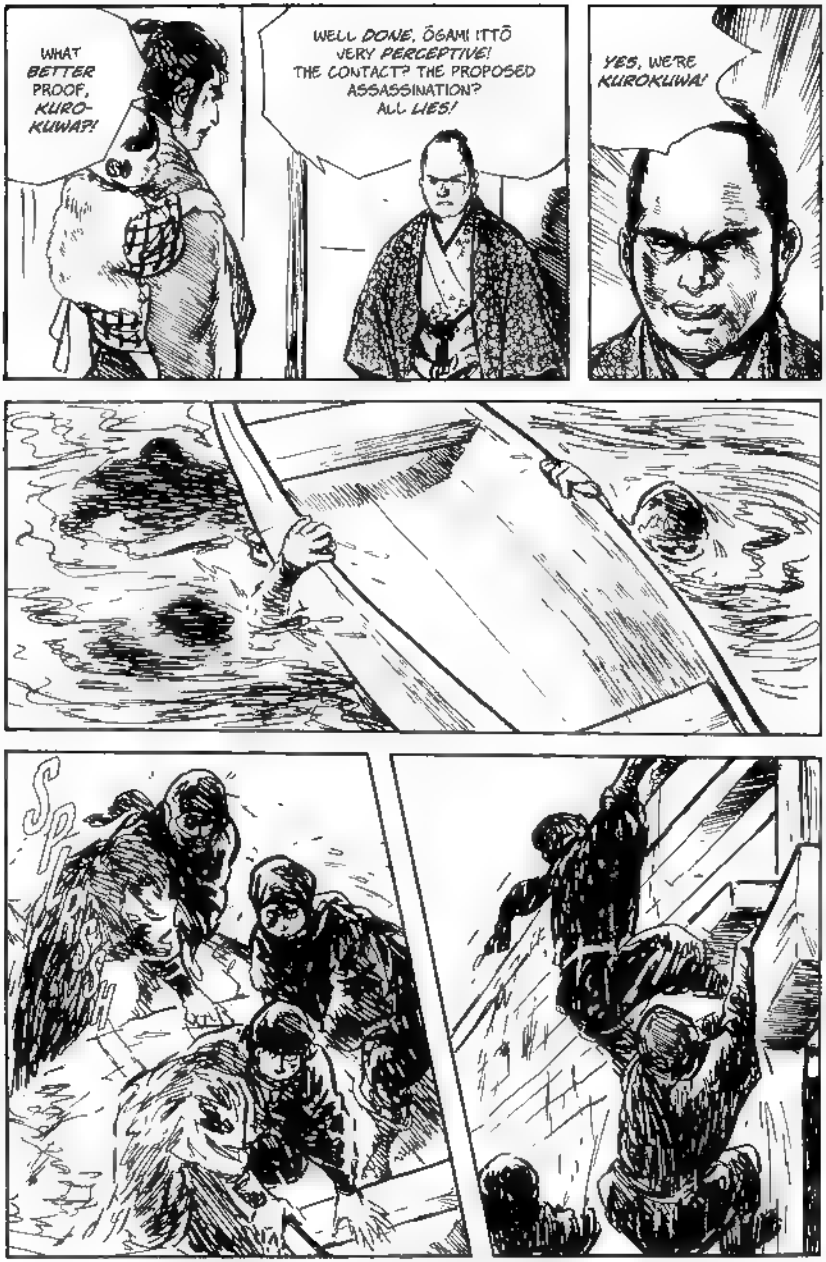
TELL ME WHY
IT'S BETTER FOR BOTH OF US THAT I NOT SAY
THEN WHY COME AT ALL?
IF THE CLIENT DOESN'T COME, THE CONTRACT IS NULL AND VOID THERE'S NO REASON TO TELL ME IN PERSON.
ONE CAN HARDLY TREAT ŌGAMI ITTŌ THE FORMER KŌGI KAISHAKUNIN LIKE A COMMON ASSASIN.
ALL THE MORE REASON TO EXPLAIN IN GOOD FAITH.
IF YOU SO INSIST SO BE IT I WAS ONLY THINKING OF YOU
IT'S THE YAGYŪ

OF COURSE WE KNEW ABOUT YOUR FEUD WHEN WE HIRED YOU. BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED
WE HAVE FIRM INTELLIGENCE THAT THE YAGYŪ IS LAUNCHING AN ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN AGAINST YOU.
THEY'LL BE TELLING THE ENTIRE NATION TODAY THAT YOU'RE A WANTED CRIMINAL. DAIMYŌ AND DAIKAN COMMANDED TO ARREST YOU.
A YAGYŪ RIDER SHOULD REACH OUR HAN ANY DAY NOW
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, YOU SHALL BE..
NOT THE WANDERING ASSASSIN, BUT THE PURSUED PREY HUNTED DOWN. THINKING ONLY OF FLEEING EVEN FROM OUR HAN! IF THE YAGYŪ COMMANDS, WE DARE NOT HIRE YOU!

BUT THEIR ORDERS HAVEN'T ARRIVED NOT *YET* AND SO I'M HERE, DUTY BOUND
ŌGAMI-*DONO*, I OFFER MY BOAT FLEE TO THE NORTH SHORE. ONCE ORDERED, WE *MUST* PURSUE BUT THE NORTH SHORE IS BEYOND OUR JURISDICTION.
I SAY THIS MUCH, COUNTING ON *YOUR* GOOD FAITH.
MY THANKS.

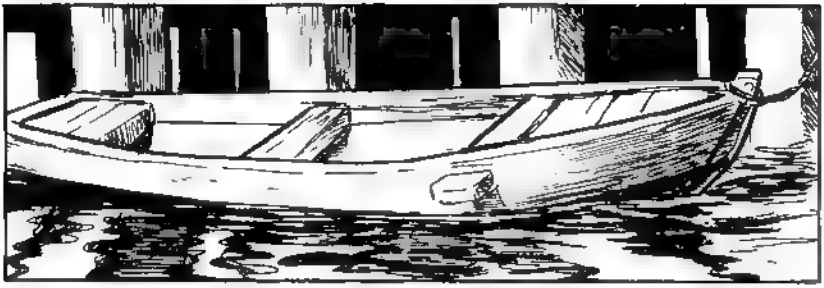
HERE, SIR YOUR CHILD-
SHASSH
SKASSH

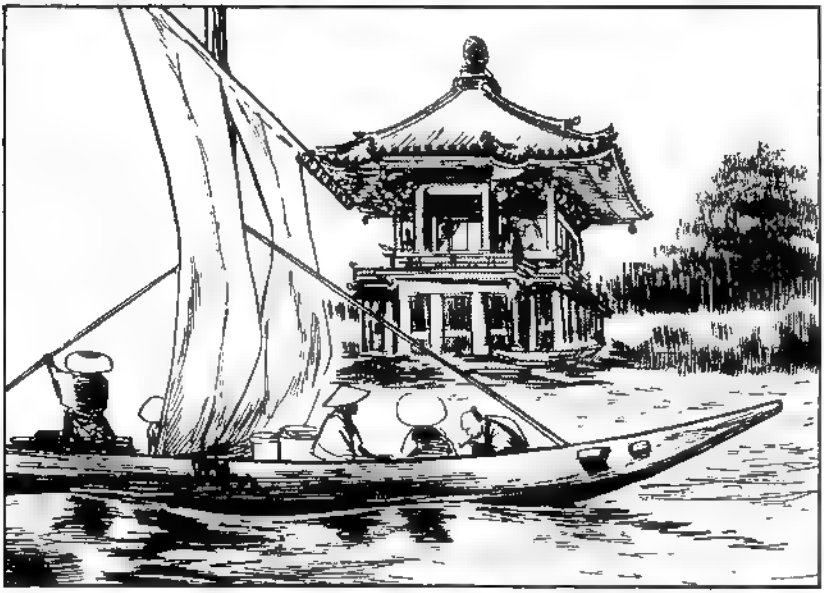
GOOD GOD!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!
DOES A SAMURAI STEP ON THE SWORD THAT SHOULD BE HIS SOUL?!
YOU USED YOUR TSUBA TO CLIMB UP HERE! EXPLAIN THAT!
RNG!

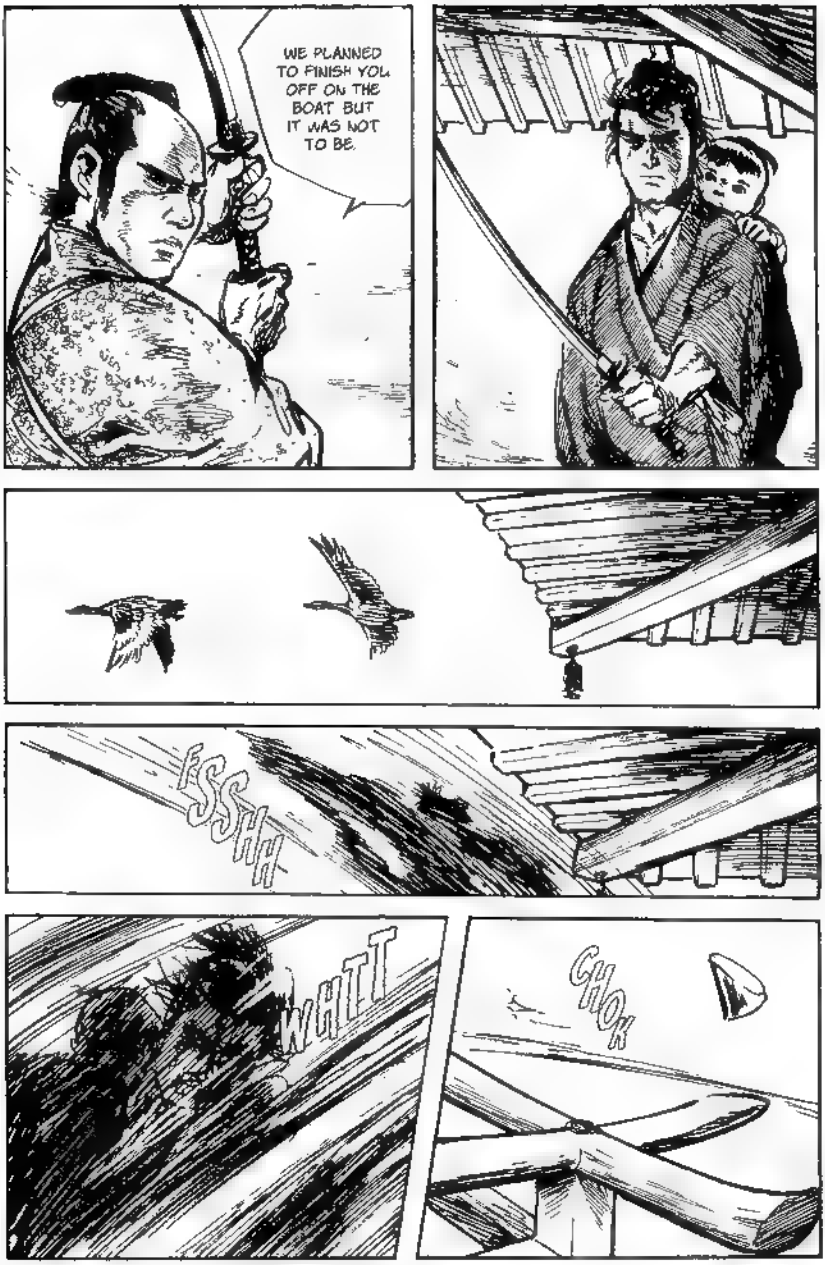

WHAT BETTER PROOF, KURO-KUWA?!
WELL DONE, ŌSAMI ITTŌ VERY PERCEPTIVE! THE CONTACT? THE PROPOSED ASSASSINATION? ALL LIES!
YES, WE'RE KUROKUWA!
SPLASH

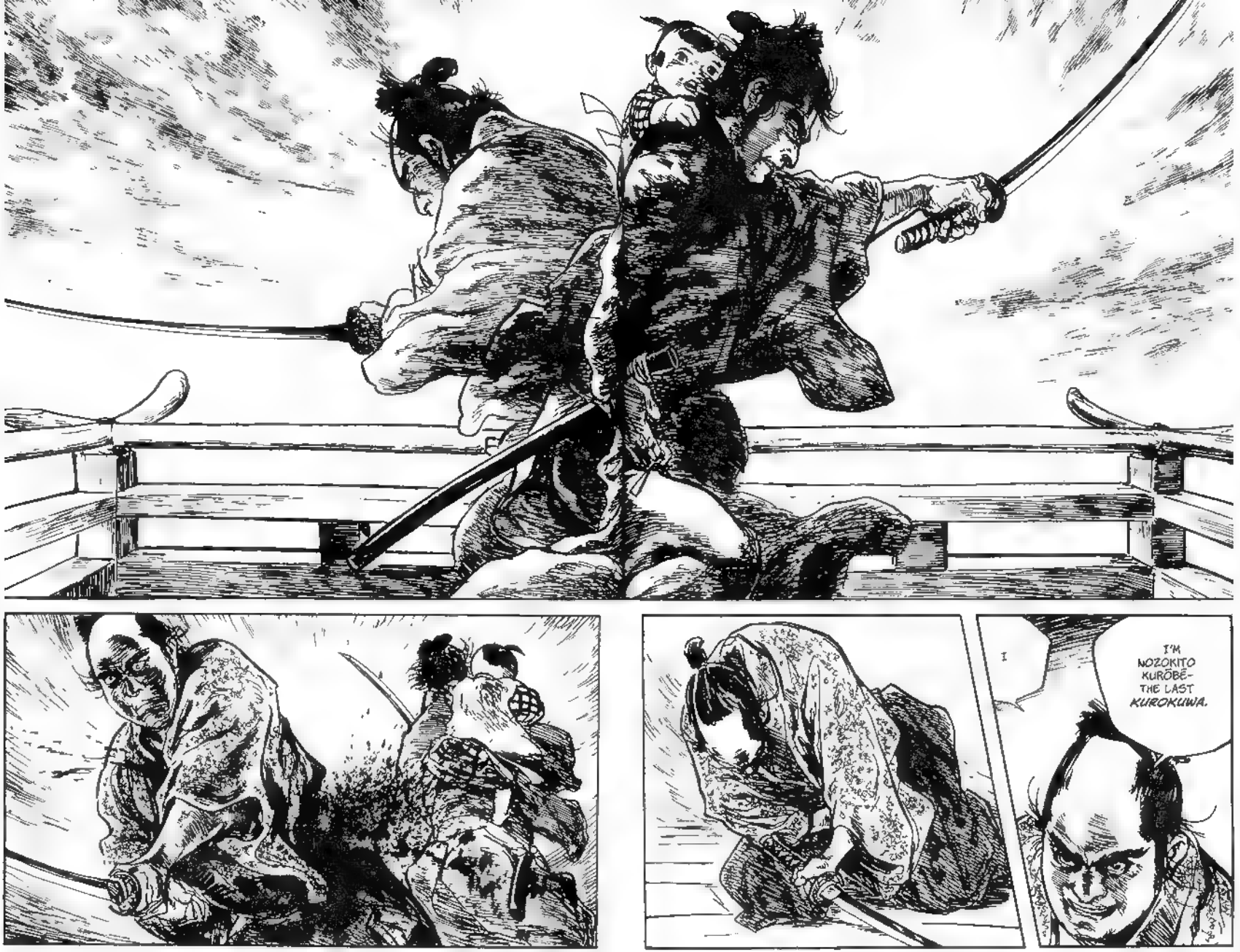
WHSSSH
WHSSSH
FWAFF

KBLOOSH






WE PLANNED TO FINISH YOU OFF ON THE BOAT BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE.
FSSHH
WHITT
CHOK


I'M NOZOKITO KURŌBÉ— THE LAST KUROKUWA.

WITH THE PASSING OF MY LIFE, THE SHÖGUN'S SPY CLAN VANISHES FOREVER
WHY DID YOU REVEAL YOURSELVES BY STEPPING ON THE TSUBA IN FRONT OF ME?
SO WE COULD DIE WE KNEW WE COULDN'T DEFEAT YOU, NOT EVEN ON THE WATER. YET WHEN THE YAGYU COMMAND, WE MUST OBEY
AND THUS WE CAME FOR DEATH. THE LAST OF OUR CLAN.
IT IS OVER. THE KUROKUWA ARE NO MORE.

THE SHŌGUN HAD THREE ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE DAIMYŌ- THE KUROKUWA, TO FIND THEIR SECRETS.
THE YAGYŪ ASSASSINS, TO KILL THEIR KEY OFFICIALS.
AND YOU! THE OGAMI CLAN THE KAISHAKUNIN, BEHEADING THE CONDEMNED
TODAY, HERE THE KUROKUWA END
THE YAGYŪ HAVE ONLY RETSUDŌ HIS FIVE HEIRS ALL DEAD.
BUT YOU! YOU STILL HAVE DAIGORO, HEALTHY AND SOUND!
YOU, WHO SHOULD HAVE GONE FIRST, OUTLAST US ALL.
HEH HEH HEH. . . . .
HEAVEN'S PROTECTION OR A CRUEL JOKE ?

WHY MUST MY LINE PERISH THIS WAY? I ONLY WANTED TO FIND THE GUILTY MAKE THEM PAY
SO DO I HATE YOU? YOU, WHO KILLED OZUNE AND MY COMRADES?
NO! ALL BLAME RESTS WITH THE YAGYŪ! THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE! FIRST THEY MADE YOU AN OUTCAST FOR THEIR OWN GLORY!
THEN THEY DOOMED MY CLAN, KILLED T THE DAY THEY FORCED OUR OBEDIENCE! IT'S THE YAGYŪ WE HATE.
AND THUS WE CAME TO DIE. REVEALED OURSELVES. PERISHED ON YOUR SWORD
TOO WEAK TO STRIKE AGAINST THE HATED YAGYŪ OURSELVES.
THIS I TELL YOU, AS THE LAST KUROKUWA.
ALL I HAVE SAID IS TRUE! THE YAGYŪ HAVE UNCHAINED THE WHIRLWIND' WITHIN TWO DAYS, THEIR RIDERS WILL REACH EVERY CORNER OF THE LAND!

:KOFF:
THERE'S ONLY ONE ESCAPE. EXPOSE THE YAGYŪ LETTER!
THEN THE SECRET ?!
I CANNOT TELL
AS THE LAST OF OUR CLAN, I MUST NOT SHOULD PEOPLE HEAR IT CAME FROM OUR LIPS
OUR NAME WOULD BE DISHONORED FOR ALL TIME. EVEN SHINOBI EVEN IN DEATH WE VALUE HONOR MY NAME IS NOTHING. BUT THE NAME OF THE KUROKUWA
ITTŌ! FIND THE SECRET! TELL THE WORLD! FIGHT THE YAGYŪ IN OPEN BATTLE!
IF NOT, THE SUN SETS ON YOU AS WELL

BEHOLD CLOUDS OF SILK SO BEAUTIFUL
THE
CLOUDS OF SILK LIKE SHINOBI SPREADING OVER THE COUNTRY
AND THEN.
SCATTERING AWAY . . . .

"CLOUDS OF SILK" ?
TRULY THE LAST KURO-KUWA.
TRYING TO DRAG BOTH THE YAGYU AND US DOWN WITH YOU. YOU'VE SET THE STAGE FOR THE FINAL ACT, AND WE MUST DRAW BACK THE CURTAIN.

COME FOR US, WILL YOU, YAGYŪ RETSUDŌ?!

HE CALLED HIMSELF THE LAST HE WAS TELLING US THAT THE SPIES THAT FOLLOWED US EVERYWHERE
ARE GONE ALL OF THEM.

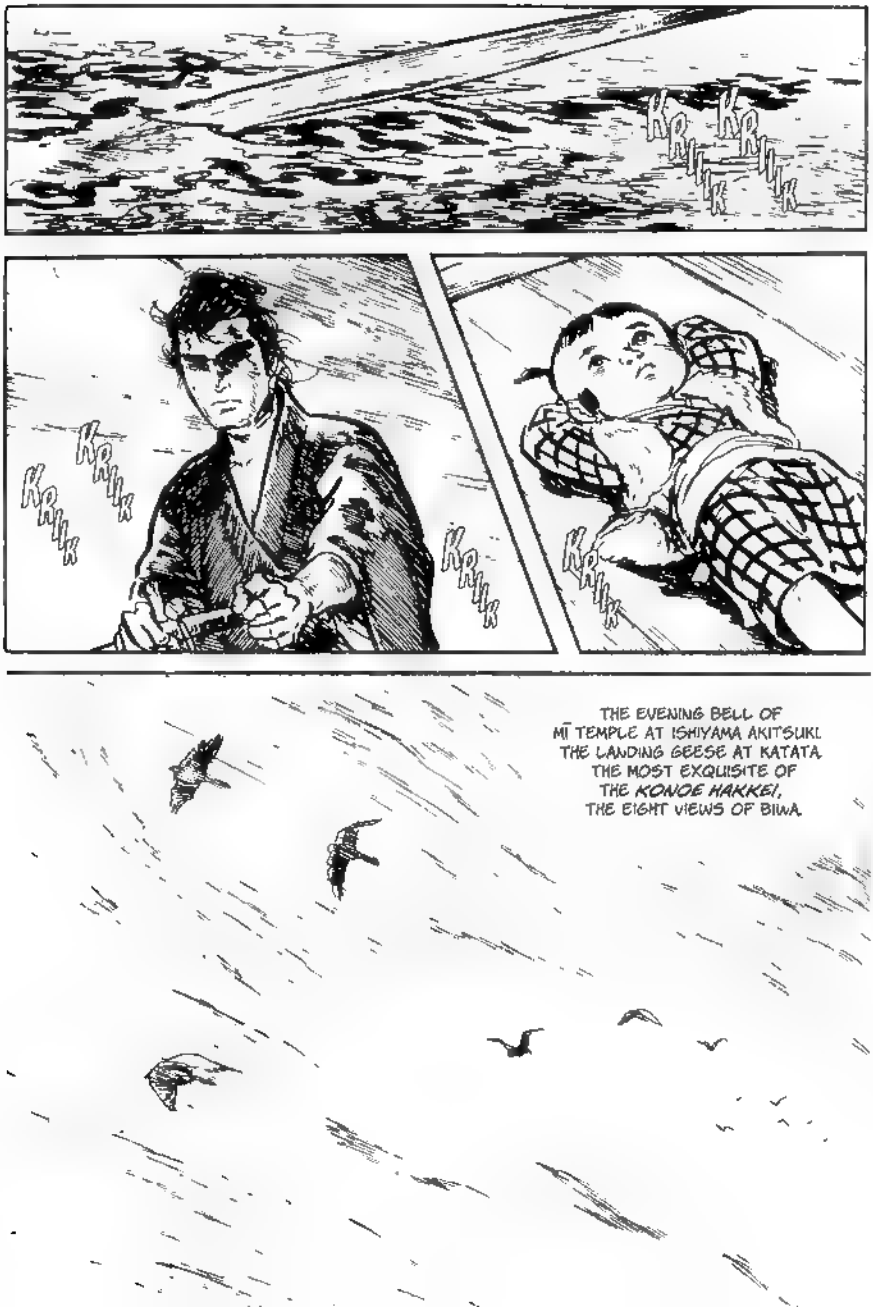
NORMALLY ONE WOULD ESCAPE.
BUT THEY ALL STAYED TO DIE.
FOR ONCE, THE YAGYŪ ARE SIGHTLESS THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS BATTLE, OR EVEN WHERE WE ARE.
IF THEY COME FOR US, THE KUROKUWA CAN'T HELP THEM.

IT COULD TAKE DAYS TO TRACK US DOWN.
TIME
THAT'S WHAT THE LAST KUROKUWA GRANTED US
TIME TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY AND MEET THE YAGYŪ HEAD ON.
THE KUROKUWA'S LAST STRATAGEM, AND THE REVENGE OF THOSE DOOMED TO DIE.

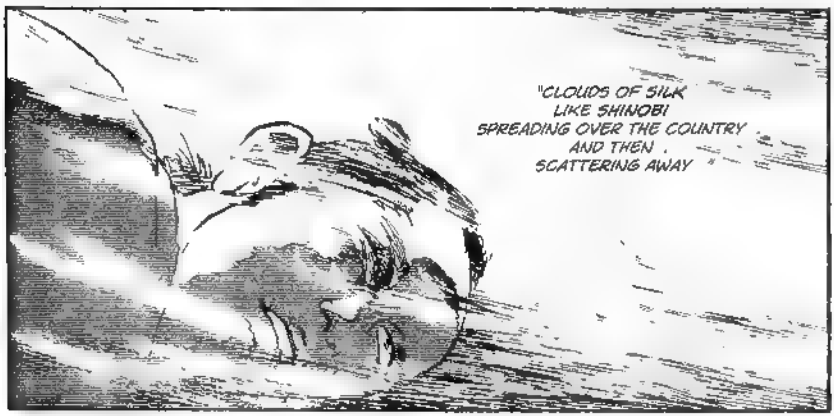
LAKE BIWA, LARGEST IN JAPAN. DRAW A LINE FROM KATATA TO KOHAMA ON THE OPPOSITE SHORE— TO THE NORTH, GREATER BIWA. TO THE SOUTH, LESSER BIWA.

GREATER BIWA IS CHOPPY AND WIND-WRACKED LESSER BIWA, FLAT AND CALM, WITH PLENTIFUL ANCHORAGES.

FOLLOWING THE ADMONITIONS OF THE LAST KUROKUWA FATHER AND SON SCULLED THEIR FRAIL CRAFT NORTH


KRRRK
KRRRK
KRRRK
KRRRK
KRRRK
KRRRK
THE EVENING BELL OF
MII TEMPLE AT ISHIYAMA AKITSUKI
THE LANDING GEESE AT KATATA
THE MOST EXQUISITE OF
THE KŌNOE HAKKEI,
THE EIGHT VIEWS OF BIWA

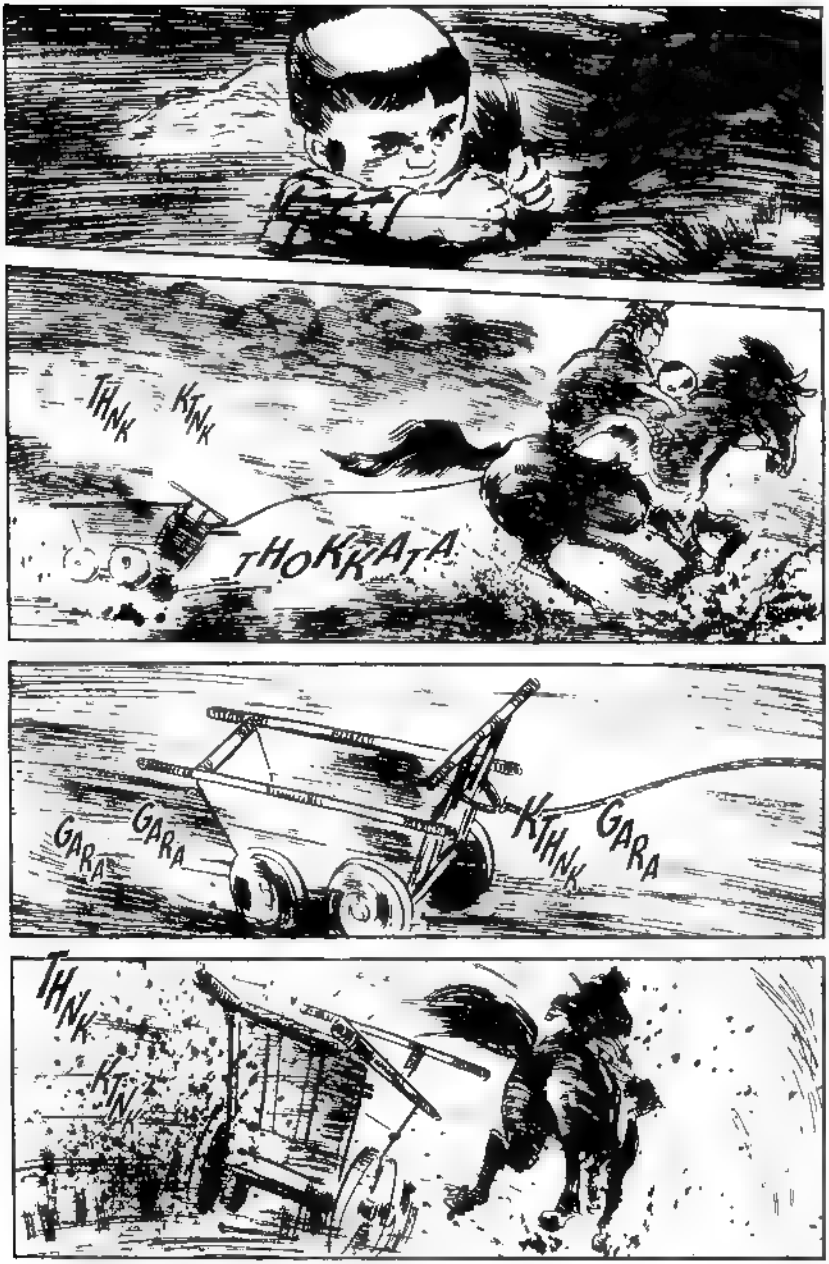
"CLOUDS OF SILK
SO BEAUTIFUL

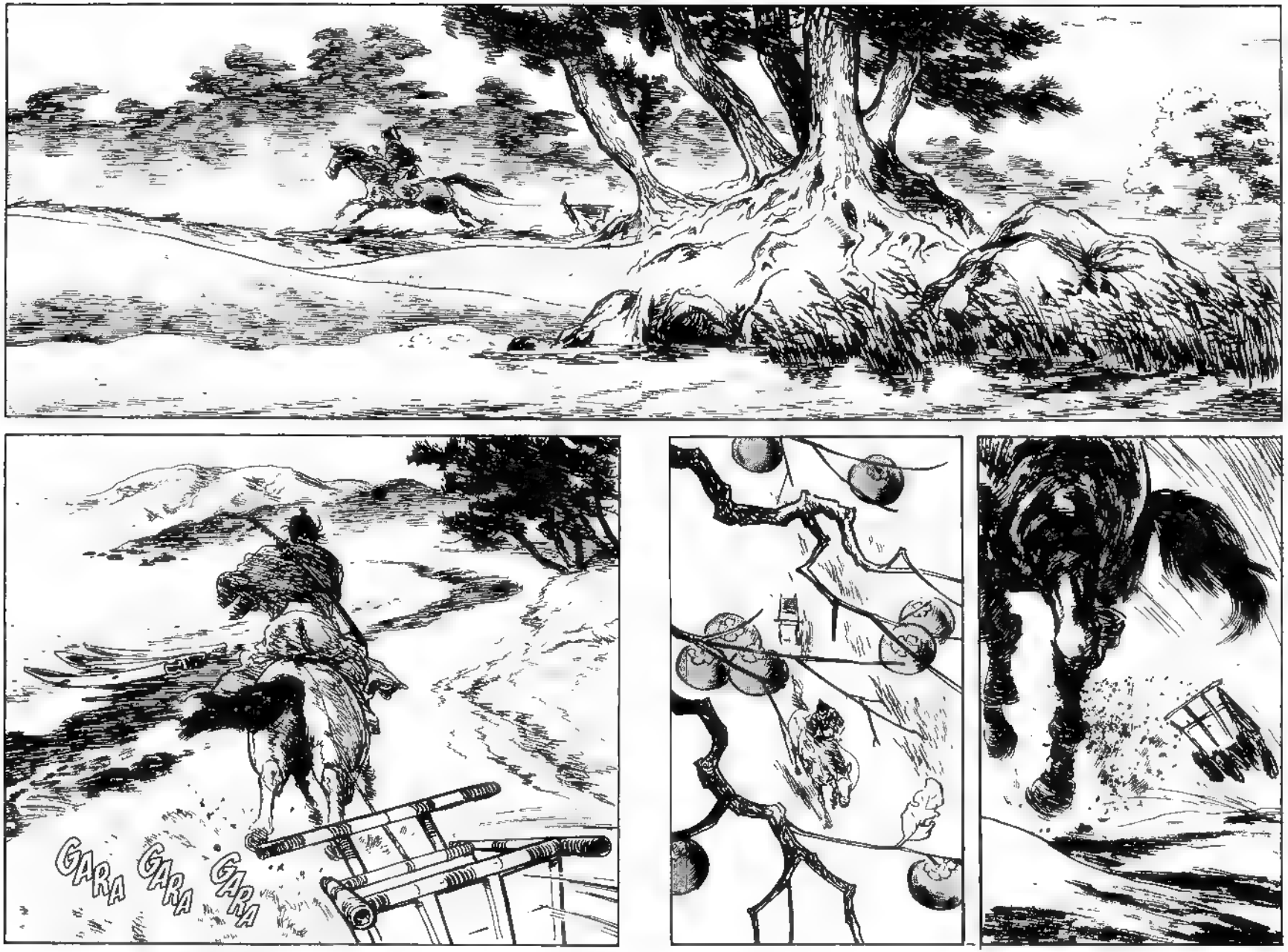

"CLOUDS OF SILK
LIKE SHINOBI
SPREADING OVER THE COUNTRY
AND THEN
SCATTERING AWAY"

CLOUDS OF SILK
"CLOUDS OF SILK" MMM.
NO. TOO SENTIMENTAL! NOT THE LAST WORDS OF A NINJA.
SO, ANOTHER MEANING...?
THE YAGYŪ GRASS THEY SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY..
AHA!
THE KEY TO THE YAGYŪ LETTER

SILK?!

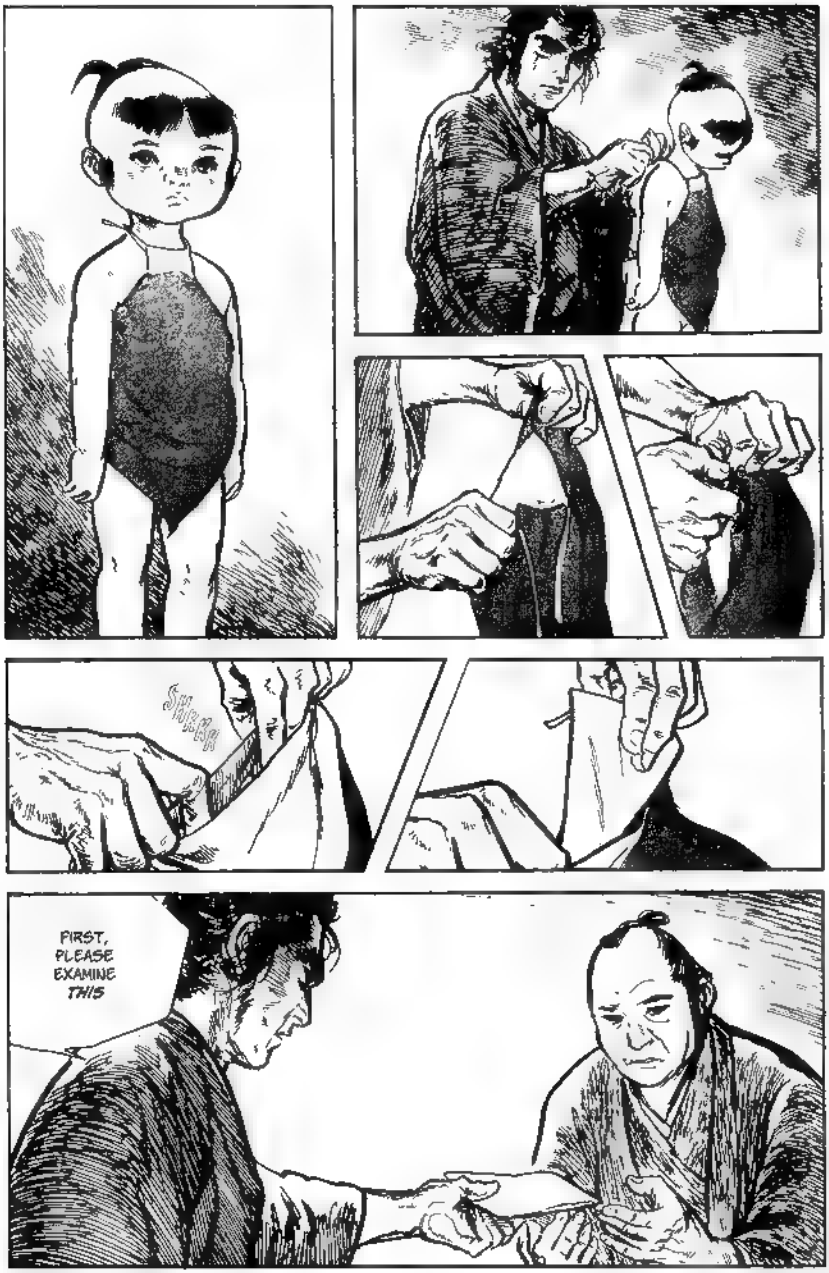
THOKKA
THOKKA
DRN
DRN


THNK
KTNK
THOKKATA
GARA
GARA
KTHNK
GARA
THNK
KTNK


GARA GARA GARA

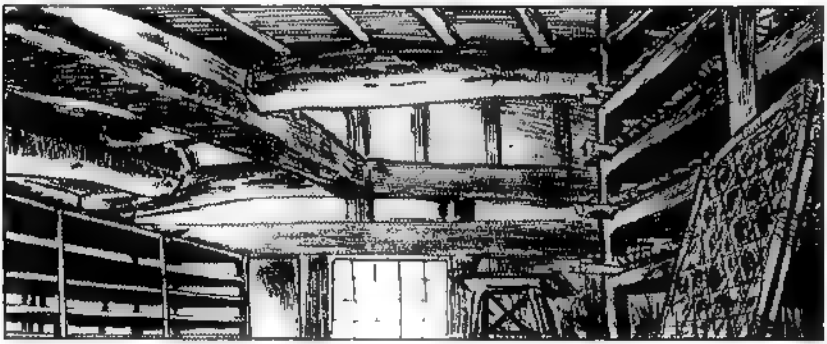
TANBA SHINOYAMA
つむぎ
ちりめん
*KIMONO FABRIC
RAW SILK

CURIOUS ABOUT SILK, ARE YOU ?
WELL. HOW MIGHT I HELP YOU?
FORGIVE ME FOR TROUBLING YOU BUT I NEED AN OPINION
DAIGORO


SHIKEN
FIRST, PLEASE EXAMINE THIS

THIS LETTER CONCERNS SILK?
SOMETHING ABOUT SILK, THIS MUCH I KNOW BUT I NEED YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO DISCOVER WHAT
IT MIGHT BE THE PAPER ITSELF OR EVEN THE WAY IT'S MADE.

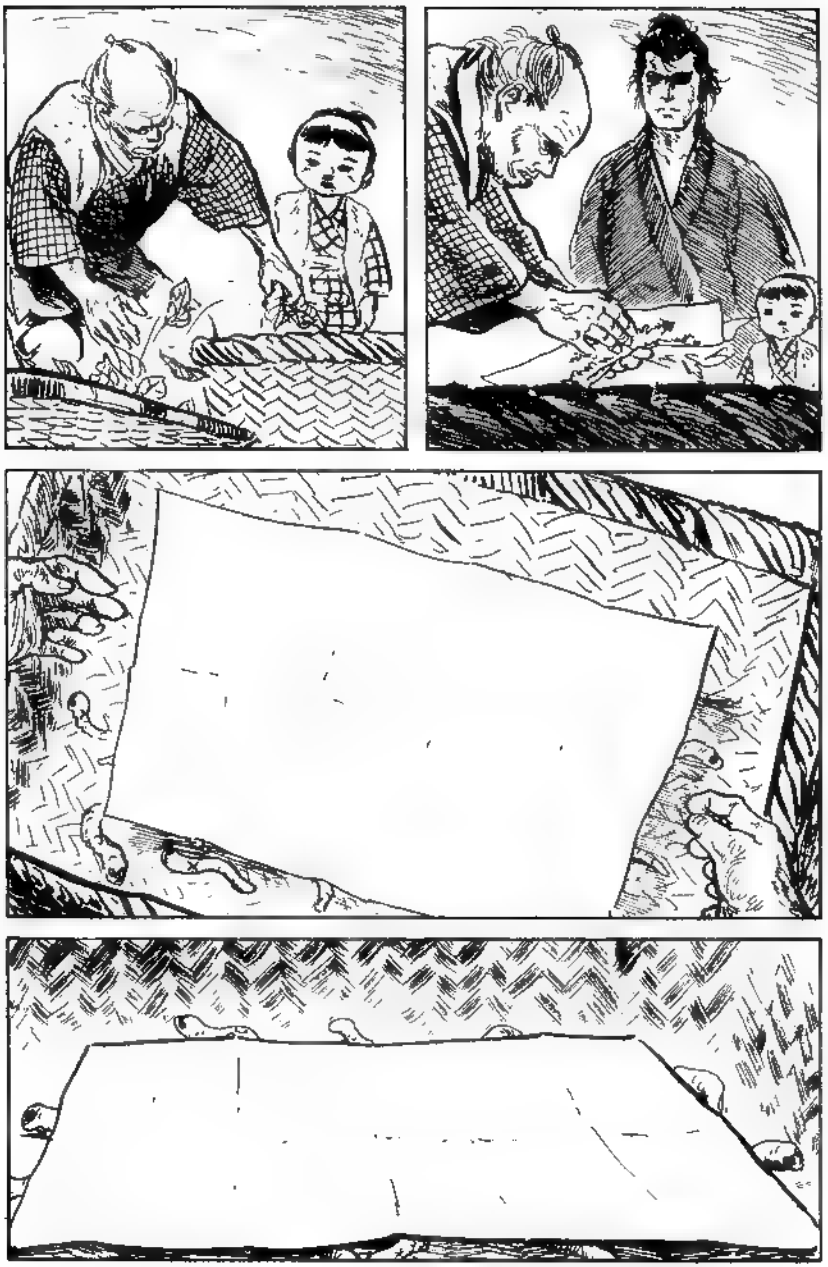
ALAS, I HAVEN'T A CLUE.
IF IT WAS FABRIC, I COULD TELL YOU WHERE IT WAS MADE, BUT...
COULD THERE BE SILK THREADS IN THE PAPER?
NO NOT THAT IT'S PAPER PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
SOMETHING ABOUT THE SUMI? OR PERHAPS THE SEAL?
WELL.
A SIMILARITY BETWEEN WEAVING AND PAPER-MAKING...?
FOR THAT I HAVE THE PERFECT MAN.
"SILKWORM TOKUBĒ," THE BEST SERICULTURIST I KNOW. HE FOUND A WAY TO RAISE SPRING SILKWORMS DEEP INTO AUTUMN. CHILLS THEIR EGGS, I HEAR. REMARKABLE MAN. I THINK HE COULD HELP
MY THANKS



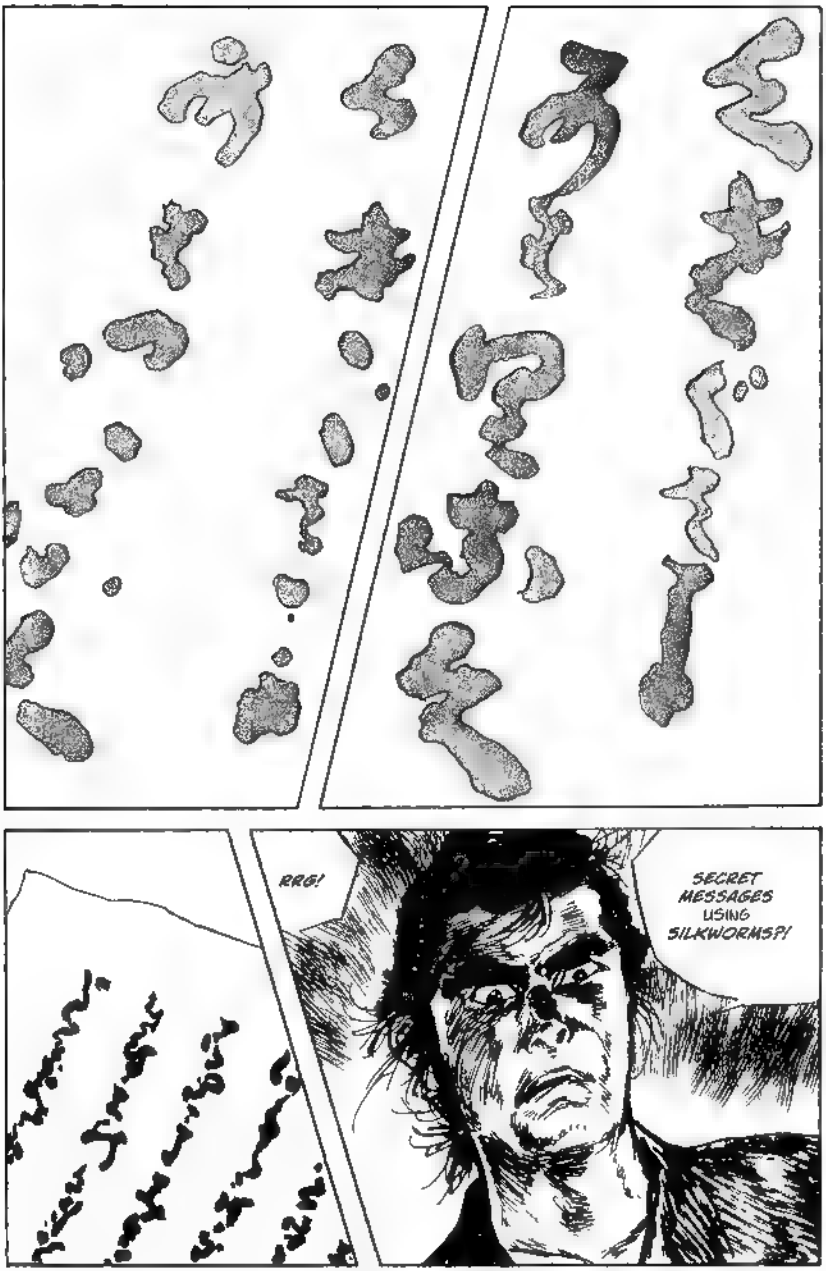
THE TEXT ITSELF WAS WRITTEN WITH AN INK MADE WITH PHOSPHORESCENT MOSS.
IT EMITS LIGHT AND CAN BE READ IN THE DARK.
I'VE TRIED FIRE, WATER, AND ACID
BUT SO FAR NOTHING.

CHKK
SHK
SH
CHK
CHIK
CHKK

SMELLS LAIK MULBERRY.
SNF
SNF
YEP— THET'S IT!
IT EVEN TASTES LAIK MULBERRY!



Sss
Sss
AH.
...!

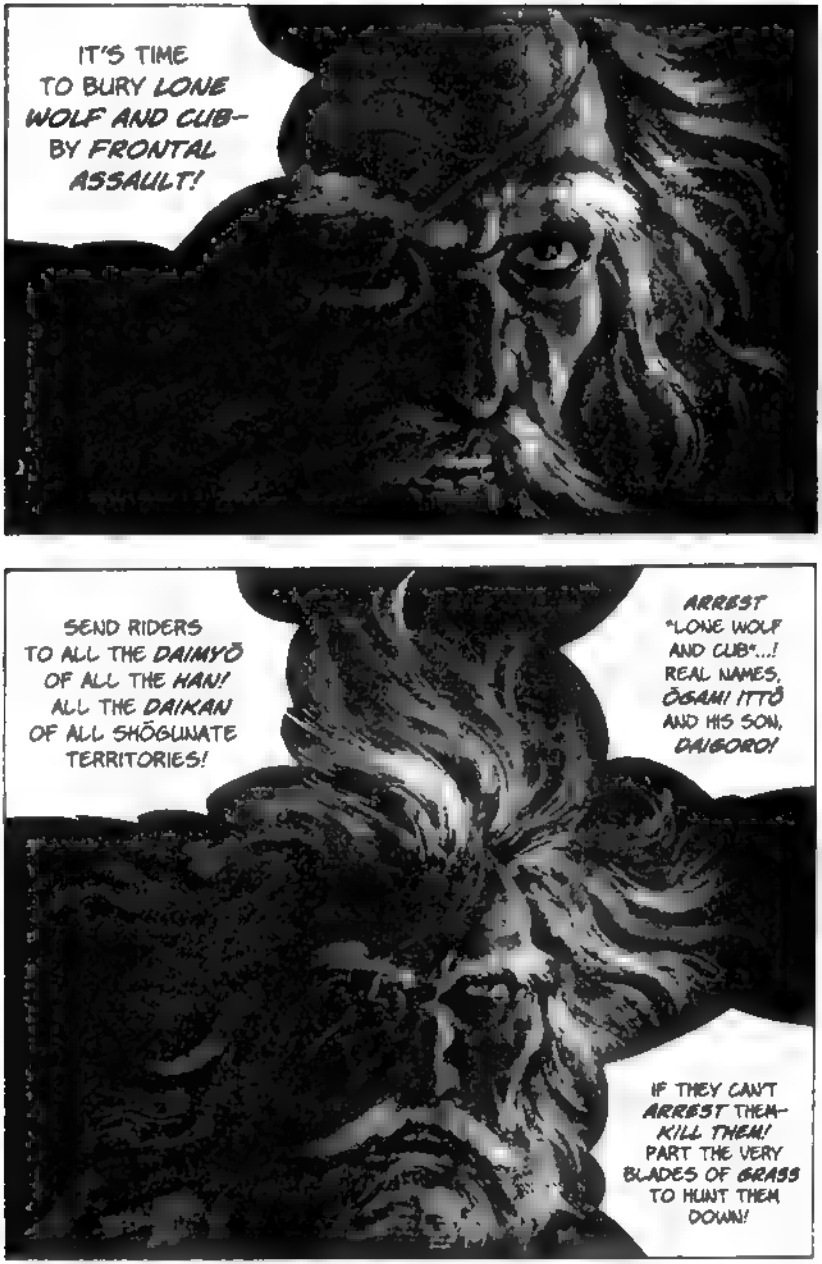

RRG!
SECRET MESSAGES USING SILKWORMS?!

WRITTEN WITH A MULBERRY EXTRACT? OR STAINED INTO THE PAPER WHEN IT WAS MADE?
THIS IS THE REAL YAGYŪ LETTER
....!
THIS WILL SHAKE THE NATION!
WE'VE BROKEN THE SECRET OF THE YAGYŪ LETTER!
RETSUDŌ! VENGEANCE SHALL BE OURS!

#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net
presents: Lone Wolf and Cub

the eighty-first

Demon Hide, Demon Seek

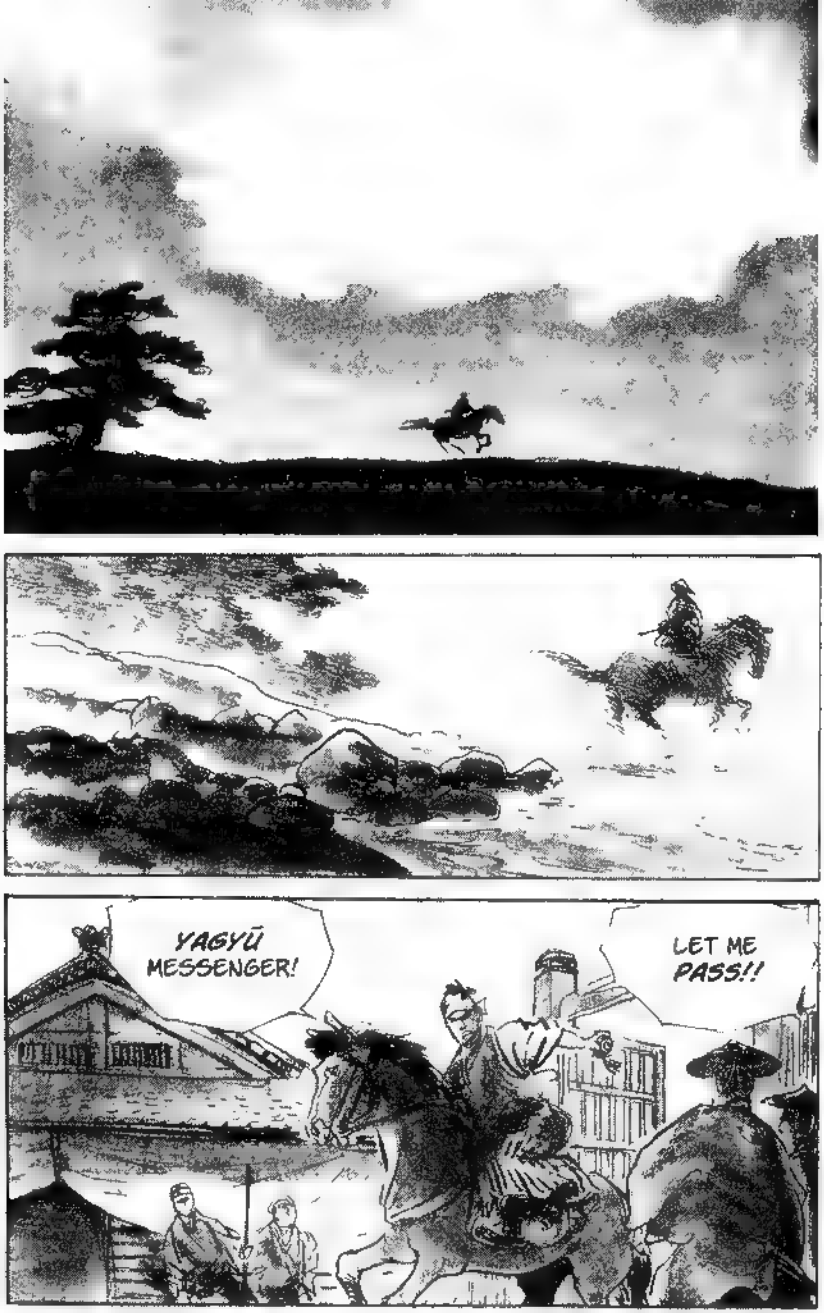

IT'S TIME TO BURY *LONE WOLF AND CUB*— BY *FRONTAL ASSAULT!*
SEND RIDERS TO ALL THE *DAIMYŌ* OF ALL THE *HAN!* ALL THE *DAIKAN* OF ALL SHŌGUNATE TERRITORIES!
ARREST "LONE WOLF AND CUB"...! REAL NAMES, *ŌGAMI ITTŌ* AND HIS SON, *DAIGORO!*
IF THEY CAN'T *ARREST* THEM— *KILL THEM!* PART THE VERY BLADES OF *GRASS* TO HUNT THEM DOWN!

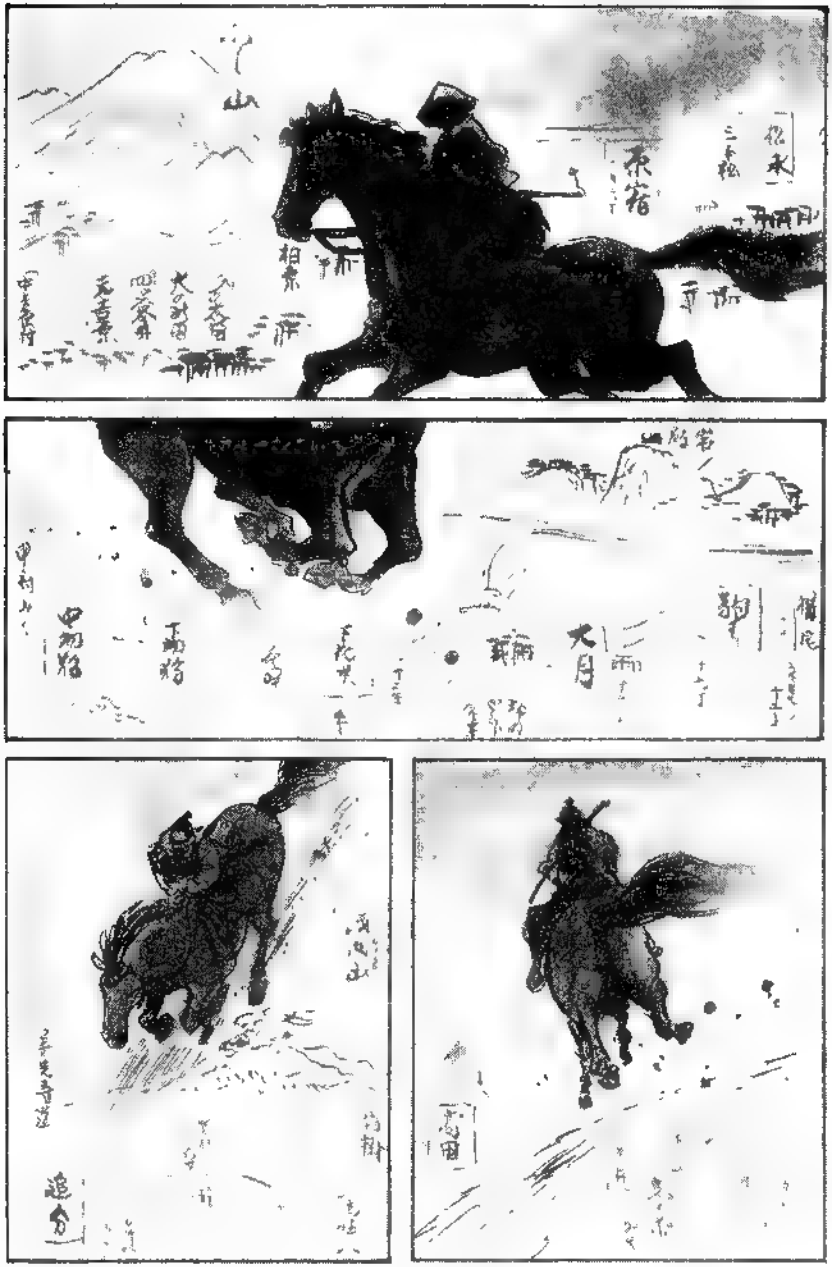
THE LAW OF THE LAND DEMANDS WE EXECUTE ANYONE WHO MAKES HIS LIVING BY ASSASSINATION.
IT'S FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD! JUSTICE STANDS WITH THE YAMAÏ!
CURSE YOU, ŌGAMI ITTŌ!
WHEREVER YOU HIDE IN THE SIXTY STATES OF JAPAN WE'LL TRACK YOU DOWN!

WE'LL END THIS LONG STRUGGLE, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
ŌGAMI ITTŌ!!

I'M BACK IN THE GAME!

DRNN DRNN
THOKKA
DRNN
DRNN
KTHOKKA
THOKKA


YAGYŪ MESSENGER!
LET ME PASS!!



DEMON HIDE!
DEMON SEEK!
THE OLD LADY THERE, SHE'S IN HER CUPS!
DEVIL TREATS HER, SHE DRINKS IT UP!
YAHH!
WAAH!
HA HA HA!
WHEE!

OUTTA THE WAY!!

*LONE WOLF AND CUB (PSEUDONYM) ŌGAMI ITTŌ FORMER *KŌGI KAISHAKUNIN*, AND SON, DAIGORO

*ŌGAMI ITTŌ

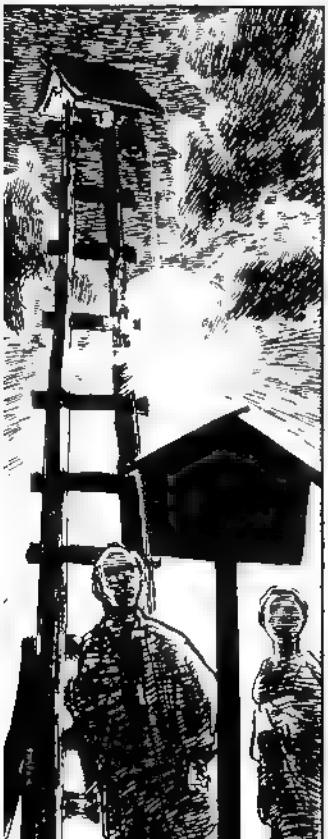
*ŌGAMI DAIGORO AGE THREE

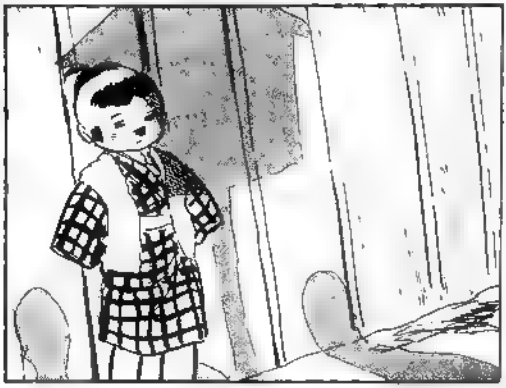
*WANTED, DEAD OR ALIVE. REWARD FOR CAPTURE, OR HEADS OF THE SAME, FIFTY PIECES OF GOLD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO ARREST, THIRTY IN SILVER. BY ORDER OF MAOKA *DAIKAN*

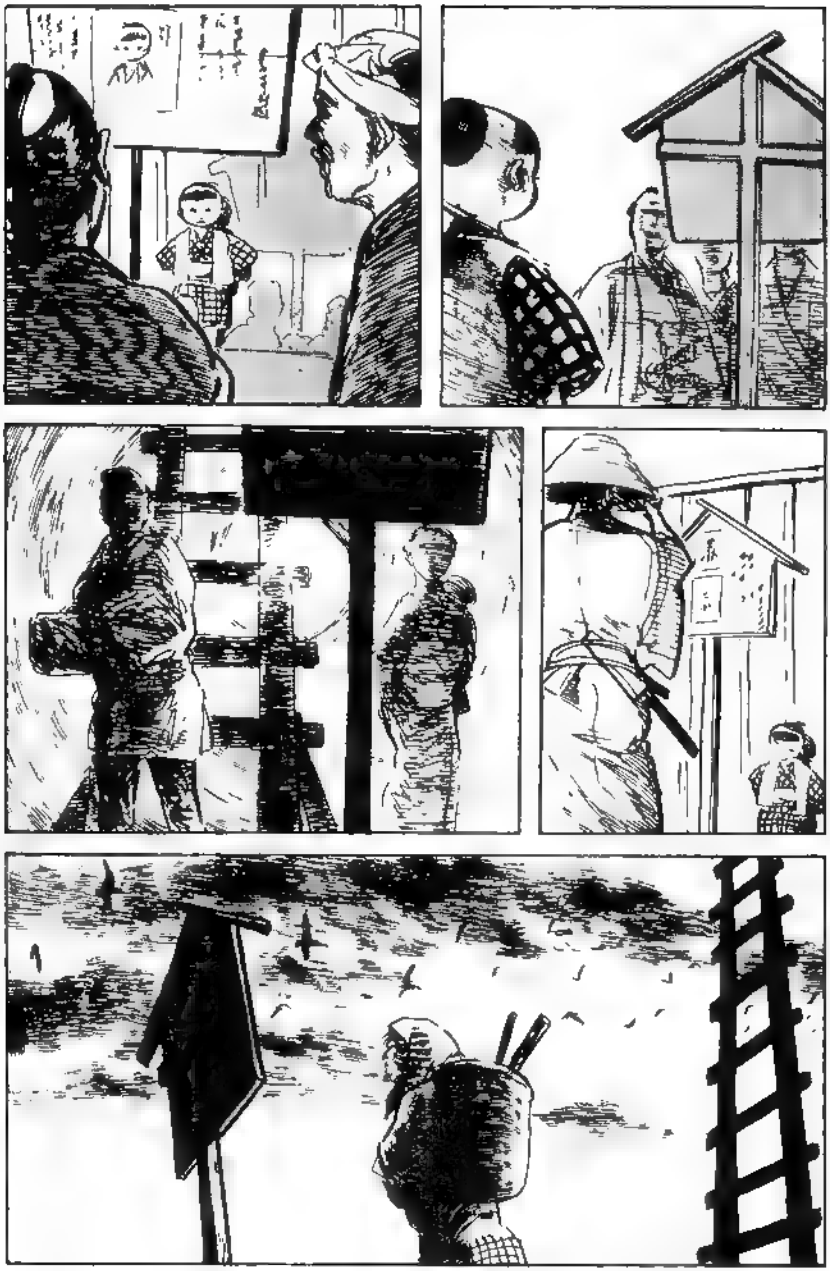
TIP
TIP

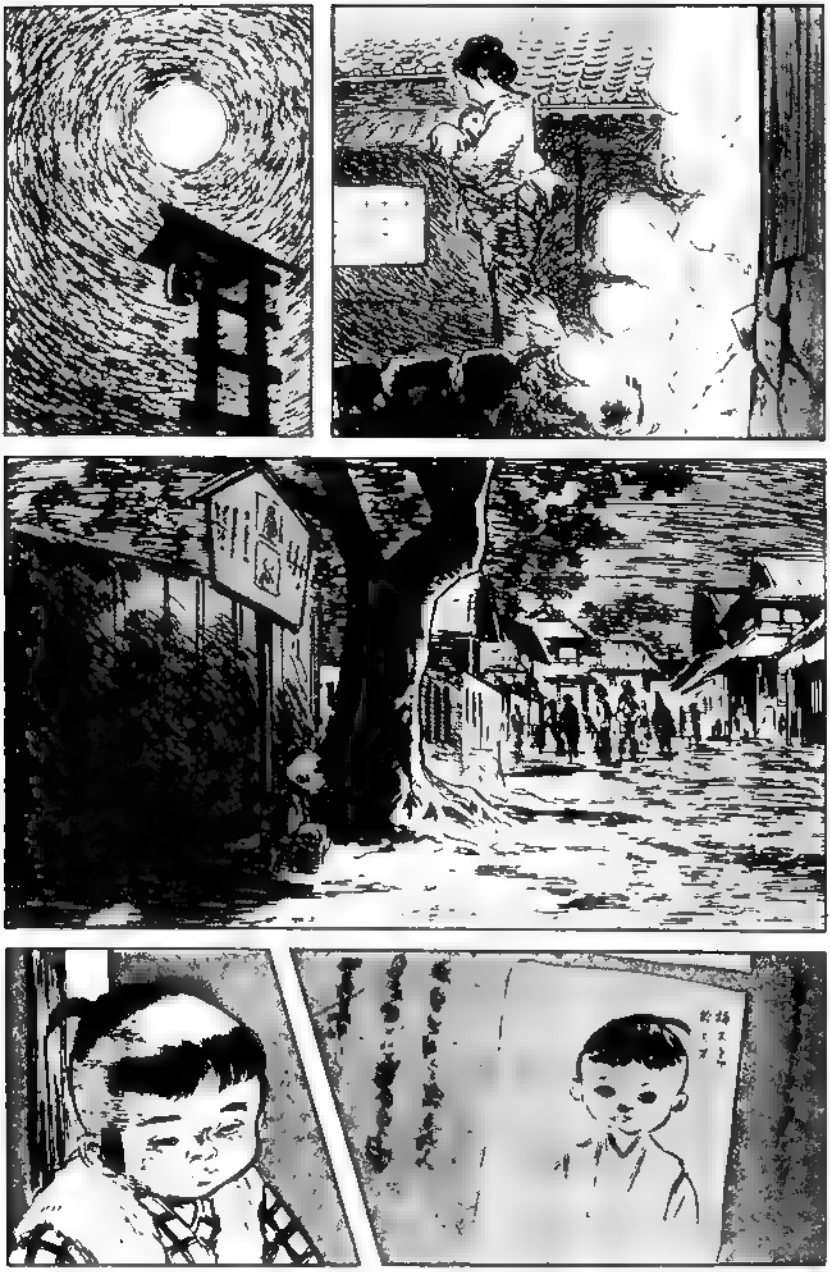
NAW. NO WAY!

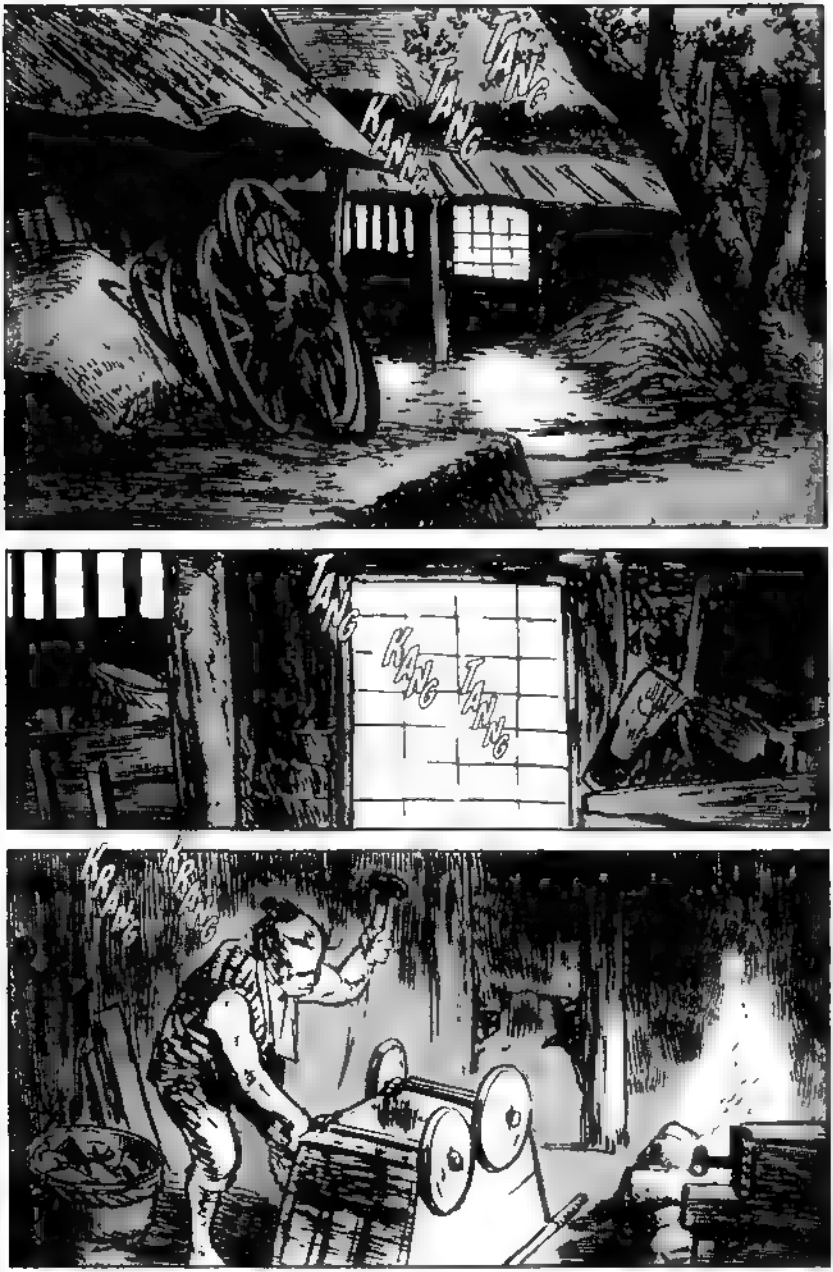
"LONE WOLF AND CUB" ? LORDY!
looks mean!
damn!
HUH. A FORMER EXECUTIONER? ŌGAMI ITTŌ AND, AND SON DAIGORŌ?
CUTE LIL TYKE, AIN'T HE?
I GET IT HE'S GOT A KID. SO IT'S LONE WOLF AND CUB!
FIFTY RYŌ! NOT BAD!
YEAH, RIGHT! LONG AS YER NOT DEAD!
BUT THIRTY IN SILVER JUST FOR SPOTTING HIM!
WHY THE HELL WOULD THE SHŌGUN'S EXECUTIONER HANG OUT HERE?
THE LAW KIN'T F ND 'IM. THET'S WHY THEY PUT A PRICE ON 'IM.
stop Pushing! lemme see!
YOU SAID IT



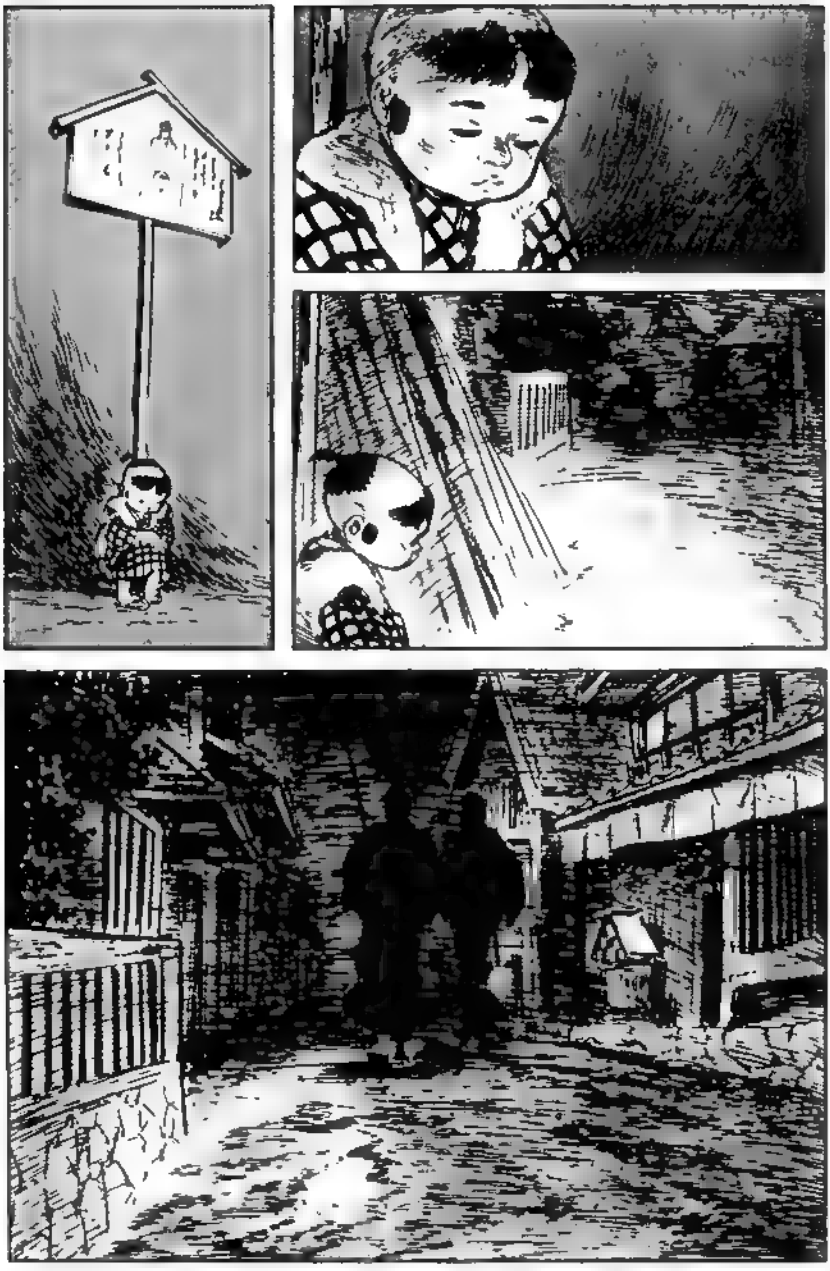


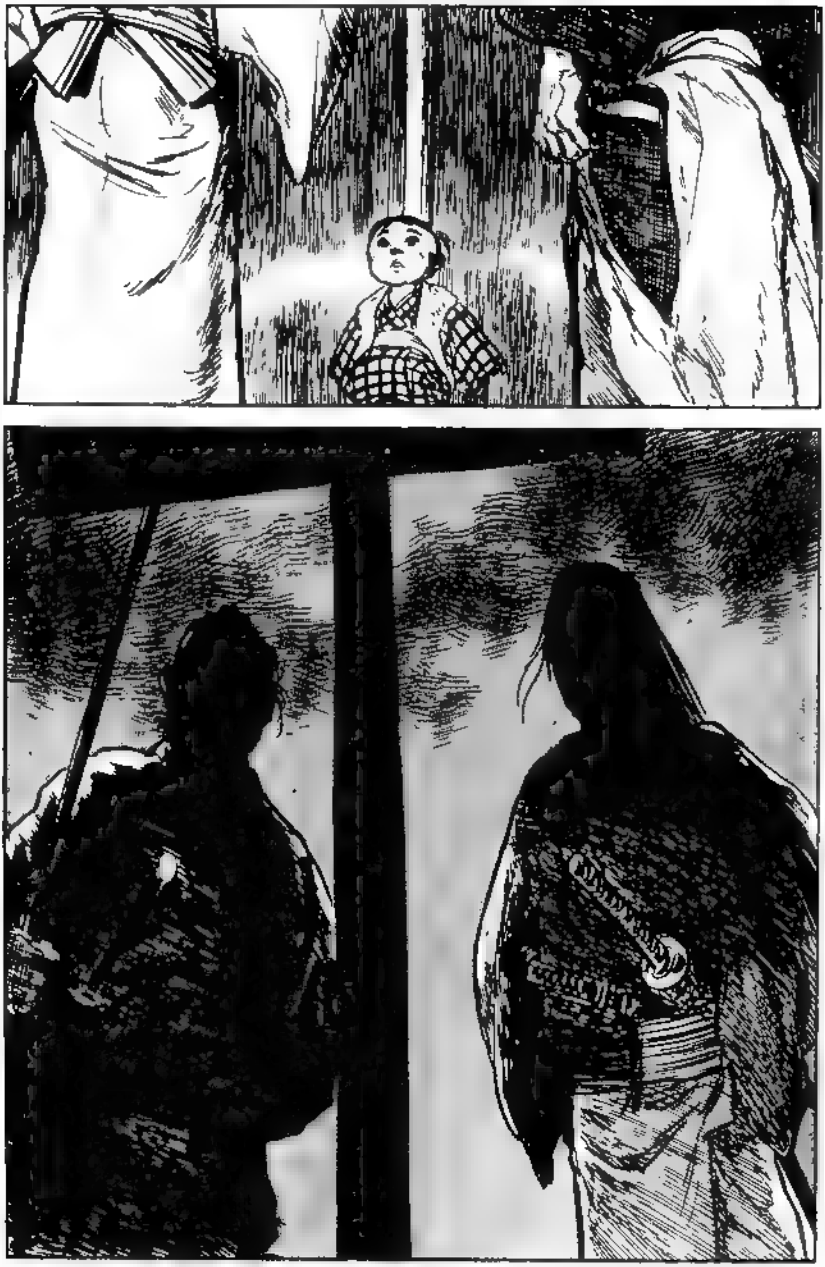





TANG
TANG
KANG
TANG
KANG
TANG
KRAAK
KRAAK

THAT DOES IT
WHAM
FINISHED BY THE FIFTH HOUR. GOOD AS MY WORD!
STILL, CAN'T FIGURE THIS HEAVY OLD IRON PLATE
HELL, IT'S JUST A DAMN BABY CARRIAGE!





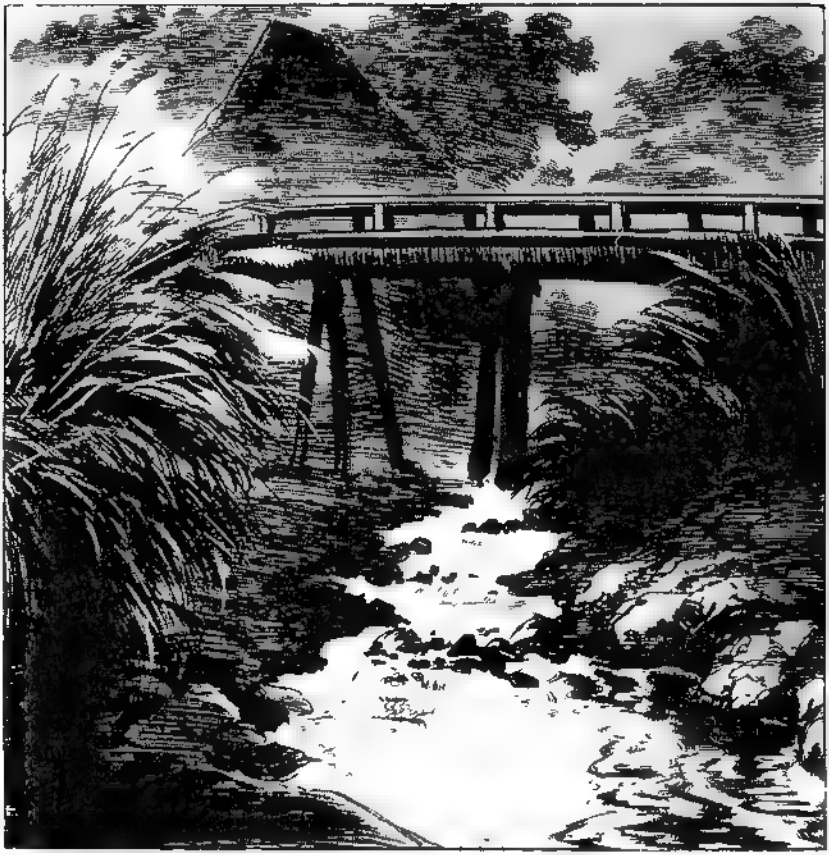
I'D HEARD RUMORS
BUT NOW THERE'S A PRICE.
WHICH MEANS BUSINESS.
FIFTY RYŌ. NOT BAD. NOT BAD AT ALL. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT
PAPA!

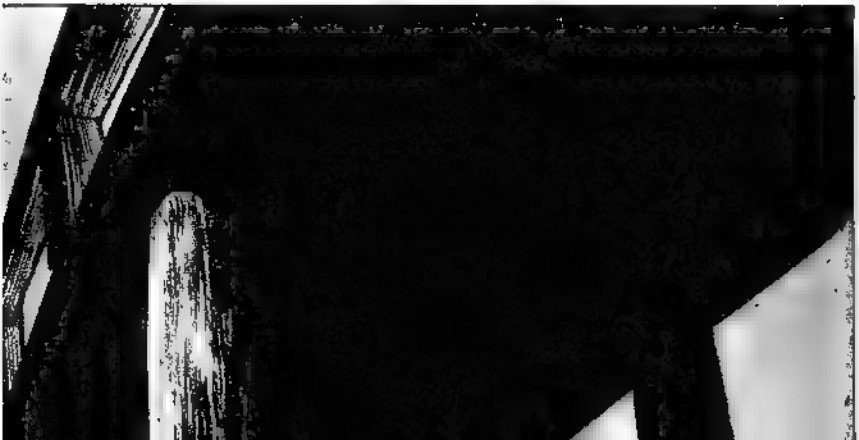
PAPA!
IT'S OKAY I SAW IT

MAN, IT'S LIKE BOILING THE WATER AND HAVING YOUR CHICKEN AND ONIONS HOP RIGHT IN.
NOT SO FAST— THIS ONE'S DIFFERENT

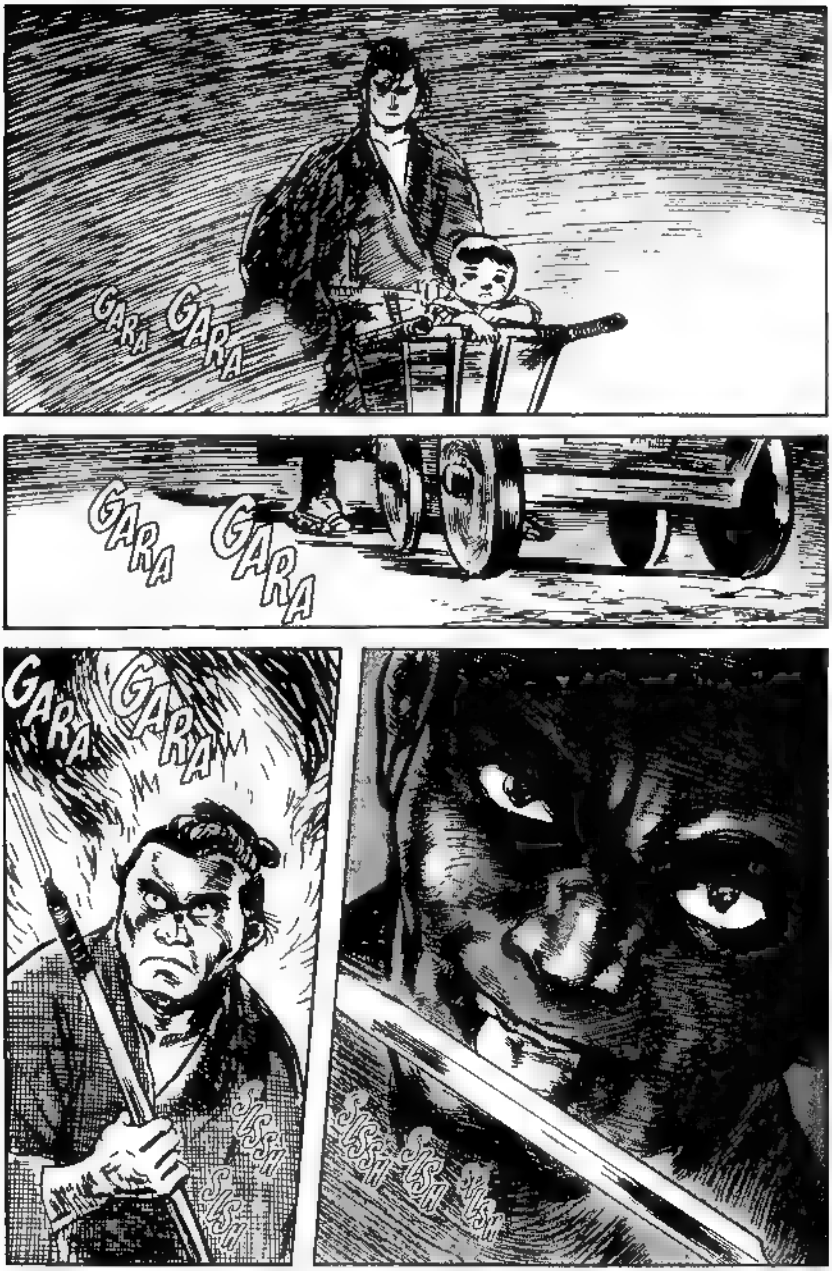
HE'S ŌGAM ITTŌ EXECUTIONER SUIŌ-RYŪ!
SO THE FAMOUS SHACHI-NO-GENMAI'S SCARED?
I ENJOY A FIGHT AS MUCH AS ANY MAN, BUT I LIKE MY MONEY TO LAND IN MY LAP
SO? PLANS?
HIDE AND SEEK!
WHAT?!
TO CATCH A DEMON, HIDE FROM THE DEMON.
GOT IT FROM SOME KIDS' GAME.

HIDE UNDER THAT BRIDGE ON THE EDGE OF TOWN, AND TAKE HIM FROM BELOW!
WITH YOUR SPEAR, YOU CAN NAIL HIM DEAD.
THE CART'S SO LOUD HE WON'T EVEN HEAR YOU MOVE OR STRIKE!
VERY CLEVER!





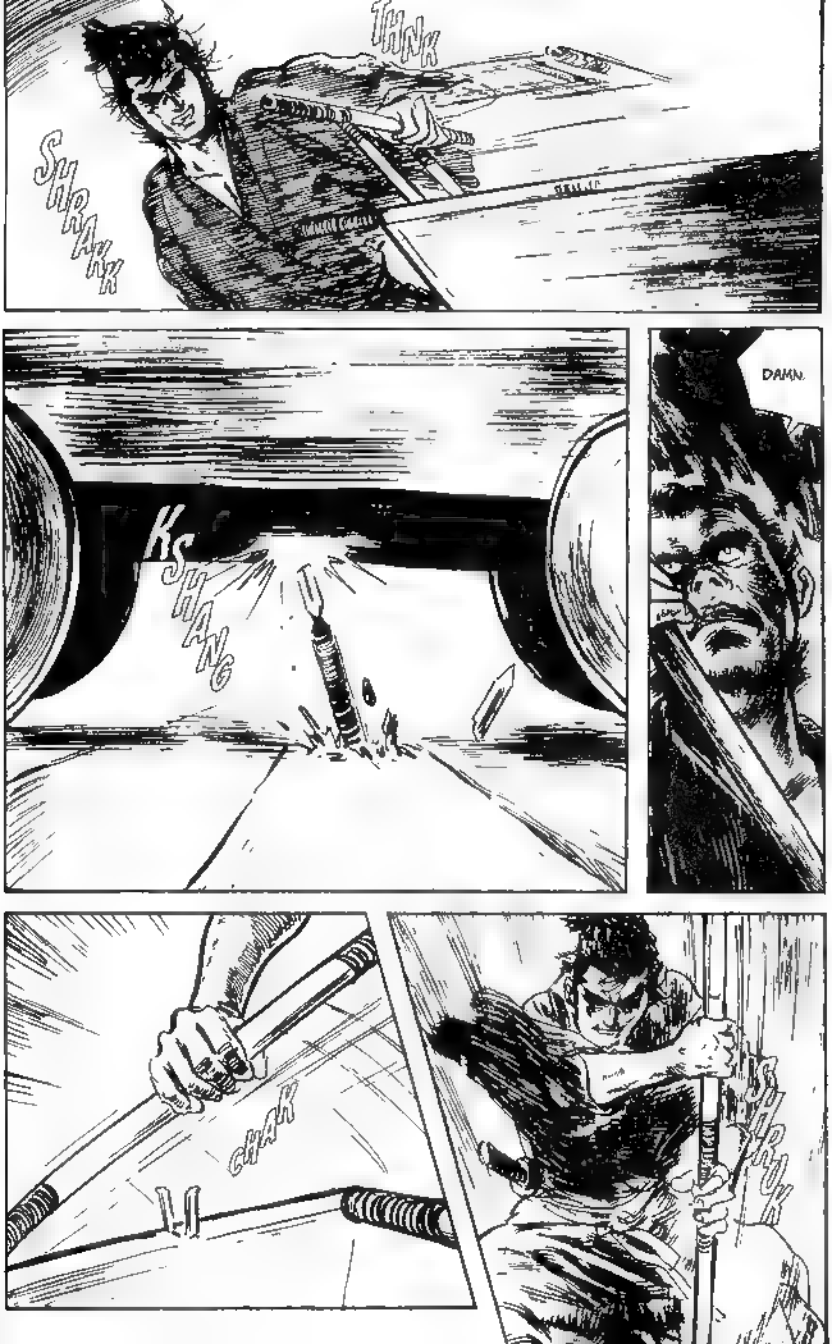
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA


GARA GARA
GARA GARA
GARA GARA
SSH SSH
SSH SSH
SSH

GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA

GARA GARA
TNNK KTNK
TNNK KTNK
SRSSH
SLSH
SLSH
SRSSH

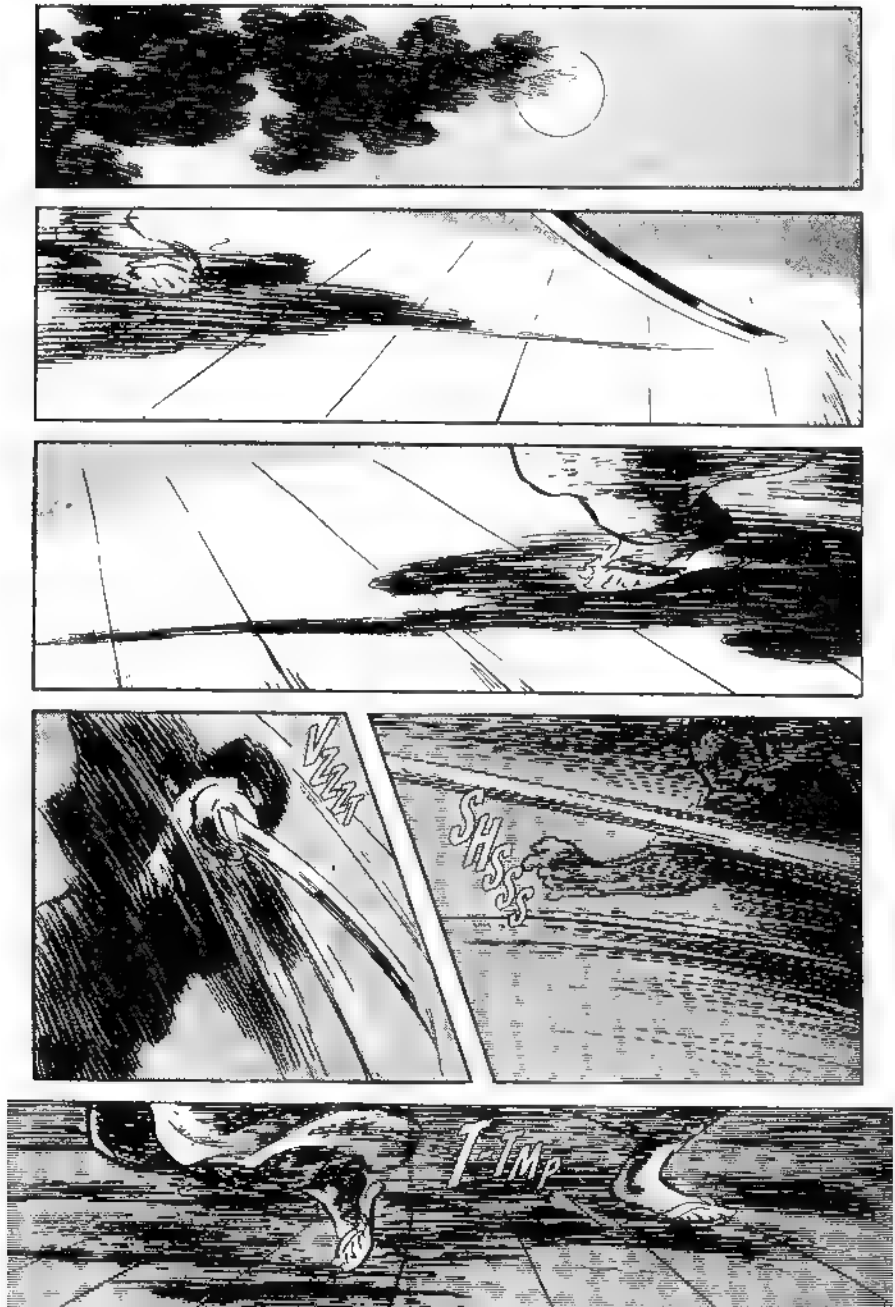
GARA GARA GARA
KTNK TNK KTNK
SHAAH


THNK
SHRAKK
KSHANG
DAMN.
CHAK
SHRK

SHRIKK
NGAHH
SHWNG
SH-
SHIT
SPLASH

LONE WOLF INDEED.
KAKUBĒ, YOU DAMN FOOL.
UP TO YOUR WAIST IN CURRENT COULDN'T DODGE.
BUT I'M NOT SO EASY
NOT KUROKUWA NOT YAGYŪ WHO ARE YOU?
SHACHI-NO-GENNA... BOUNTY HUNTER.

A BOUNTY HUNTER I SEE.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU GUYS FOR ASSES. ANY BOUNTY HUNTER WORTH HIS SALT HAS.
IT WAS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS WHEN YOUR HEAD WAS FREE.
BUT NOW YOU'RE GOING FOR FIFTY BIG ONES. TIME TO WORK.
AND I SCORED AN EXTRA THIRTY IN SILVER BY REPORTING YOU FIRST.
THE DAIKAN'S FOAMING AT THE MOUTH. HE'S ROUNDING UP A POSSE.
THEY'LL BE POURING IN HERE ANY MINUTE NOW. SO I GOTTA GET MY MEAL TICKET WHILE I CAN.
NASTY JOB. BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA DO IT.
SHING


VLEK
SHSSS
T TMP

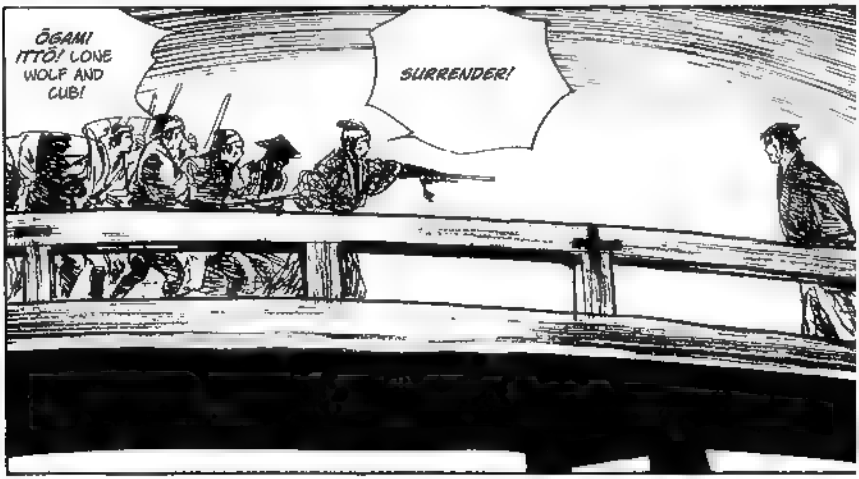
HEH. DIDN'T THINK YOU'D THROW BEFORE ME
MOST SAMURAI HESITATE. BEFORE TOSSIN' THEIR "SOUL" I WON THAT WAY A HUNDRED TIMES. BUT YOU BEAT ME TO IT YOU'RE NOT SAMURAI ?

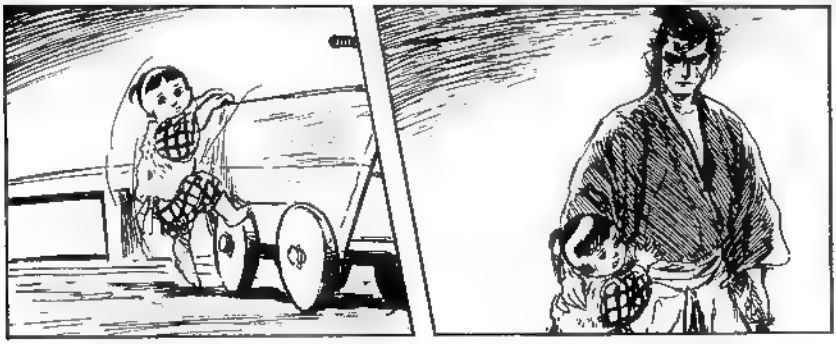
NO CLAN! NO BUSHIDŌ! ONLY MEIFUMADŌ!

I LOSE

GCCH
FWOU
RYAHH
DRAIN
DRAIN

*GO-YŌ


ŌGAMI ITTŌ! LONE WOLF AND CUB!
SURRENDER!



MEN! SEIZE HIM!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS!
GO-YŌ!
GO-YŌ!
WHSSH

NGAA!
SKKKT
HRRG!
SKOSSH
SHRUK
YAHH!
SHUNK
KOKK!
GYAH!

FSSHT
SHRRK
SPLIT

CHOK
SKUSSSH

KSHAKKK

BKOOOM

KANG
KTANG
SHINNG

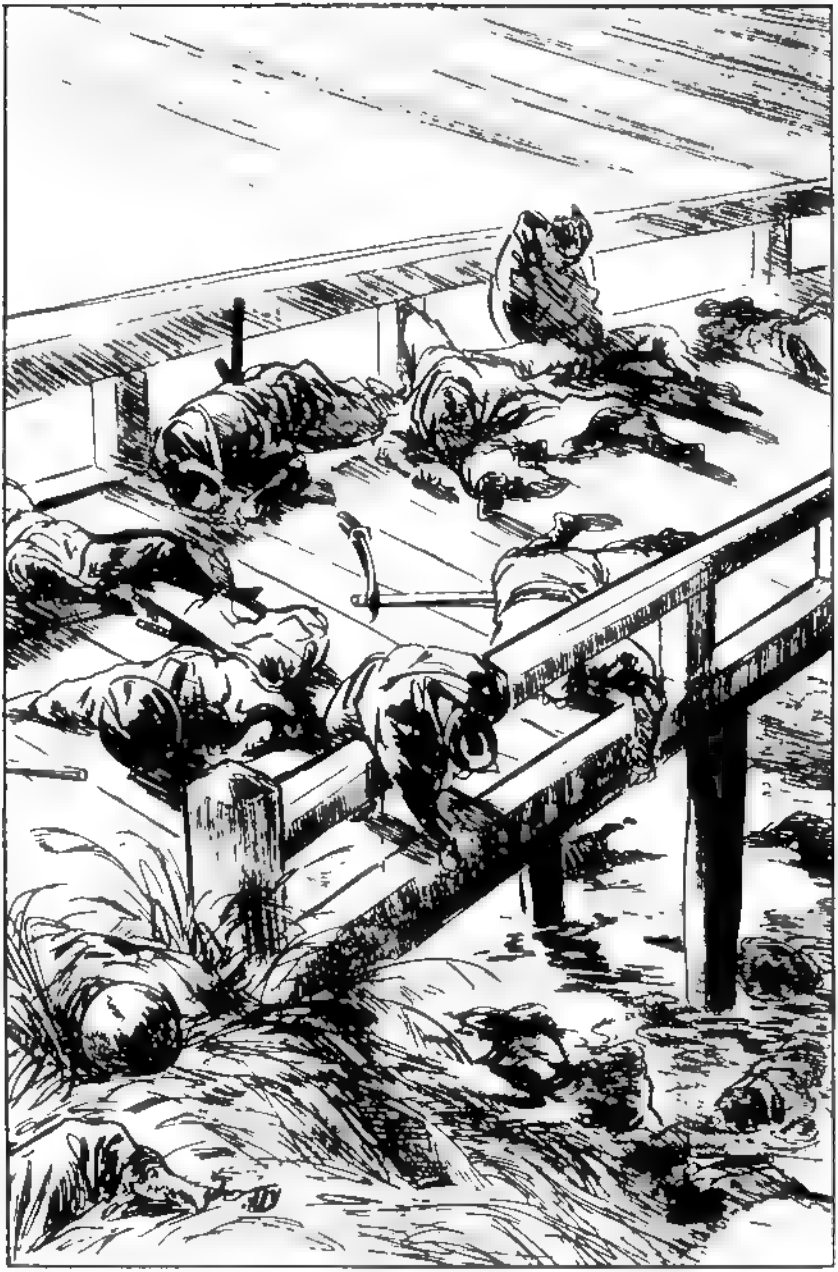
H.YAA!

GARA
GARA
GARA
SKSSSS
KSHNGG
THUKK
THO
THO

AIEEE!
HEH HEH HEH. YER MARKET VALUE'S GOIN' UP
heh heh heh.
FWIT

EVERY STEP DOWN THAT DEMON ROAD INFLATION!
AND I'M GONNA HAVE T' FRY IN HELL WITH MY THUMB UP MY ASS, WATCHIN SOMEONE ELSE GET IT PISSES ME OFF!
"DEMON HIDE! DEMON SEEK! THE OLD LADY THERE, SHE'S IN HER CUPS! DEVIL TREATS HER, SHE DRINKS IT UP!" HEH. GONNA BE DRINKIN' WITH THE DEVIL SOON.
IT'S HIDE AND SEEK, MAN.
THE DEMONS ARE ON YOUR TAIL
WHEREVER YOU GO! BOUNTY DEMONS, ALL OF US CLOSING IN!
GONNA BE NO PLACE TO HIDE! IT'S JUST TOO TASTY, THAT HEAD OF YOURS. !

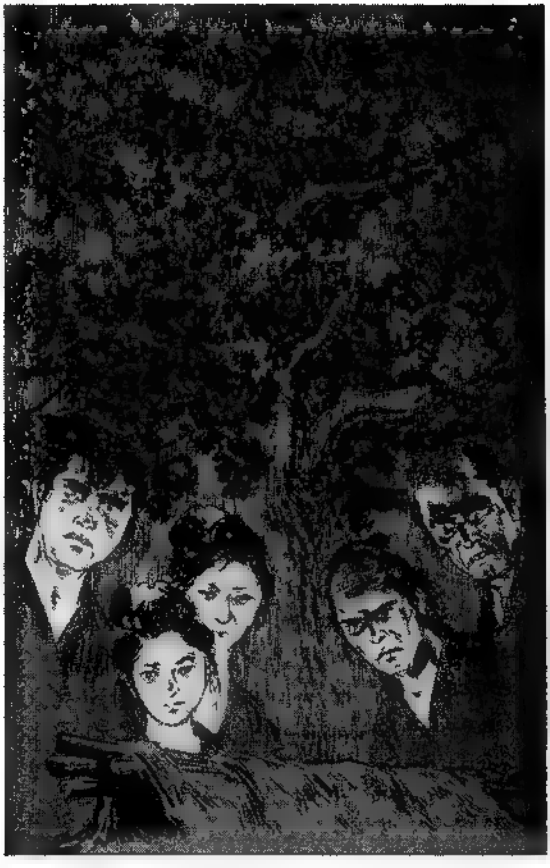
FROM NOW ON, YA GOT A NEW NAME
LONE BOUNTY HEAD!
MEH. JUST ONE EYE. MAKES THE MOON LOOK CLOSE.
LIKE I CAN REACH OUT 'N' TOUCH IT
HFF
SHK
THE YAGYŪ THE HAN THE DAIKANSHO
AND NOW. DEMONS

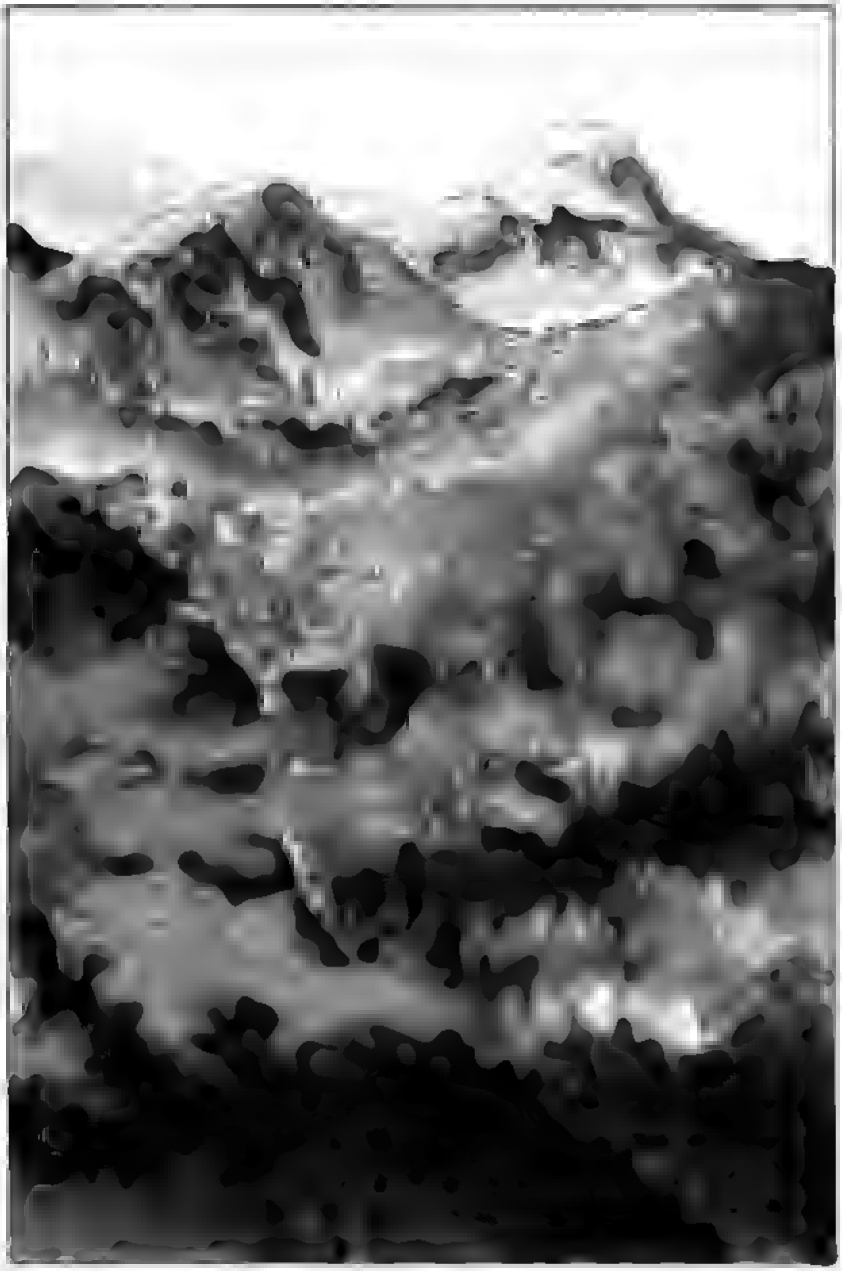


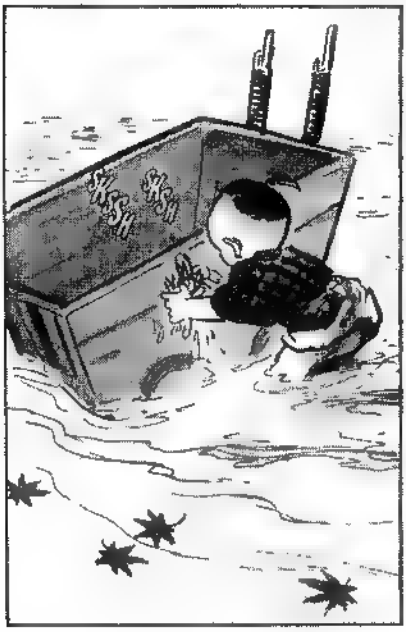
#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net
presents: Lone Wolf and Cub

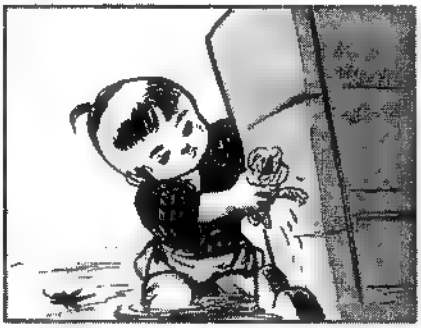
the eighty-second

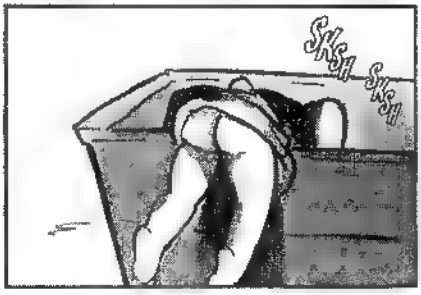
Gateway into Winter

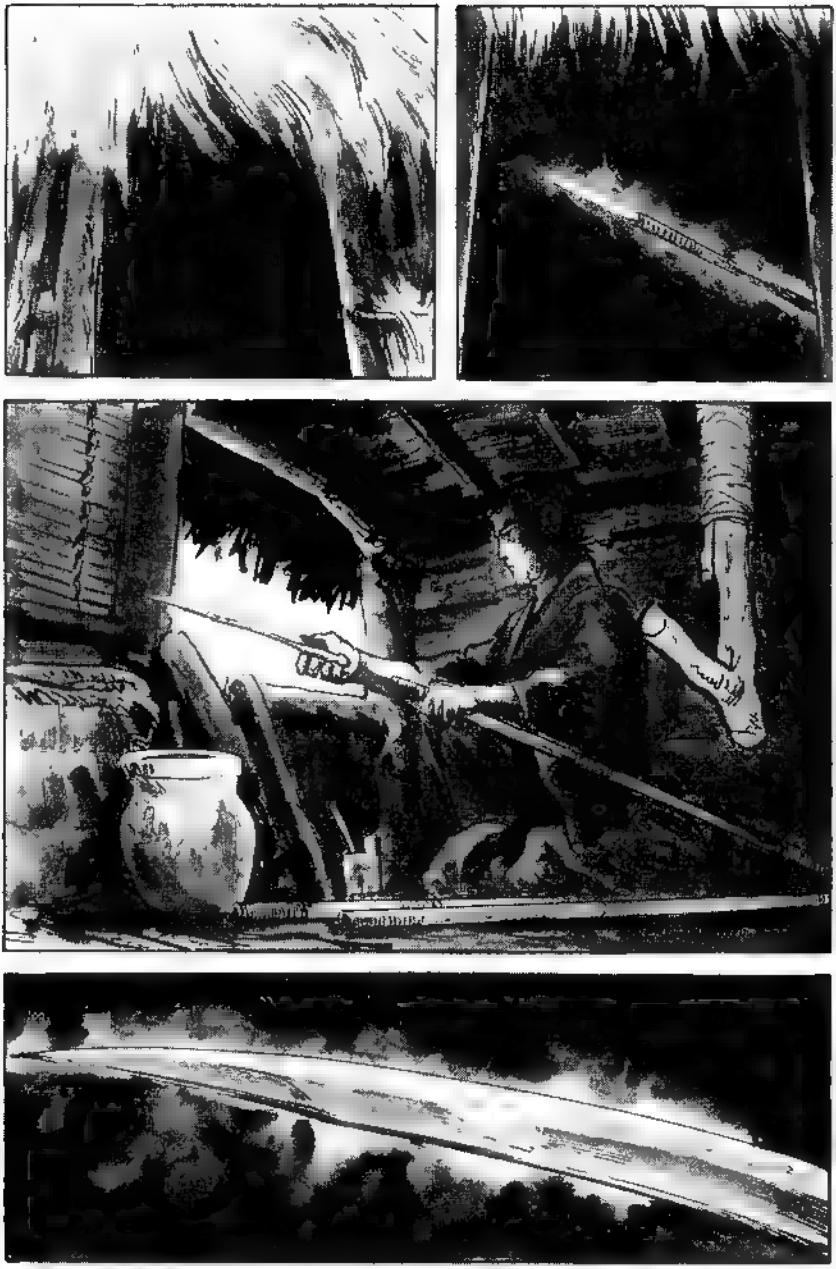


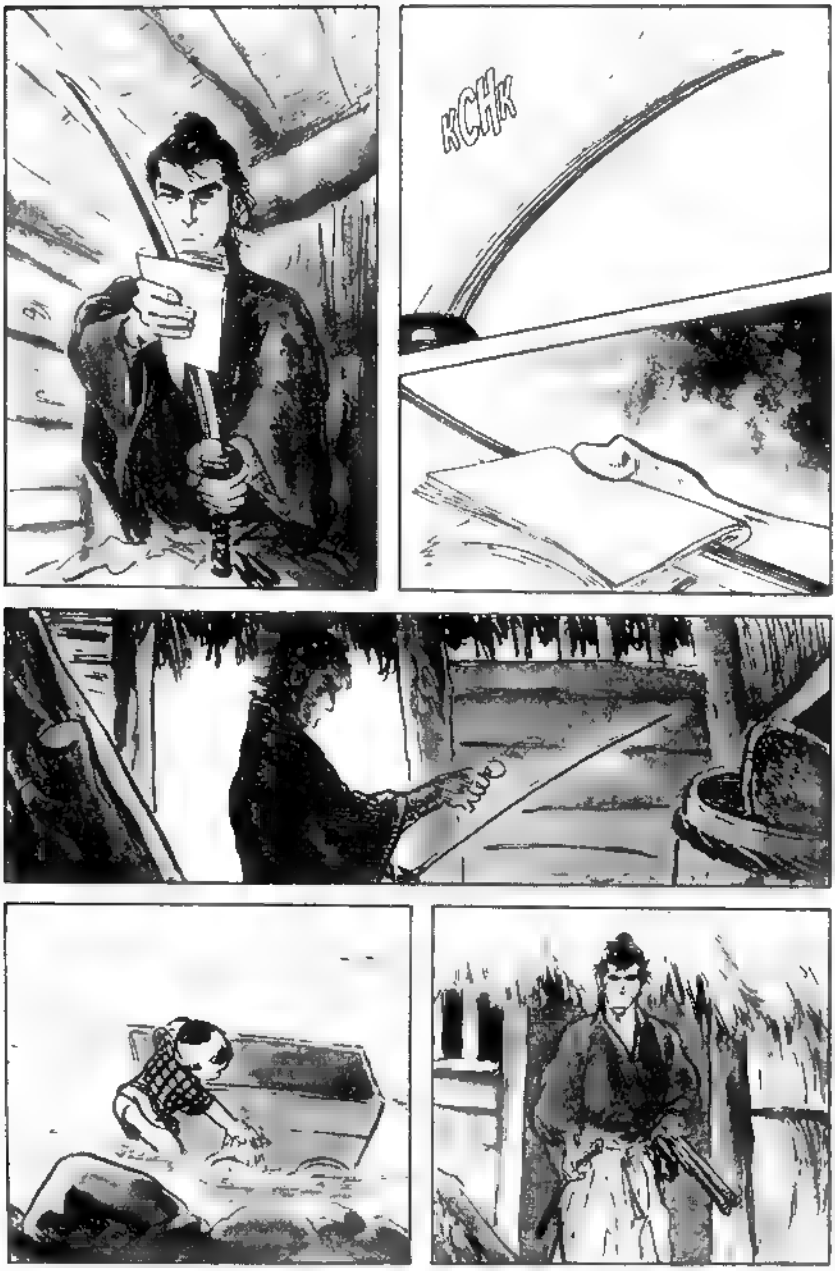


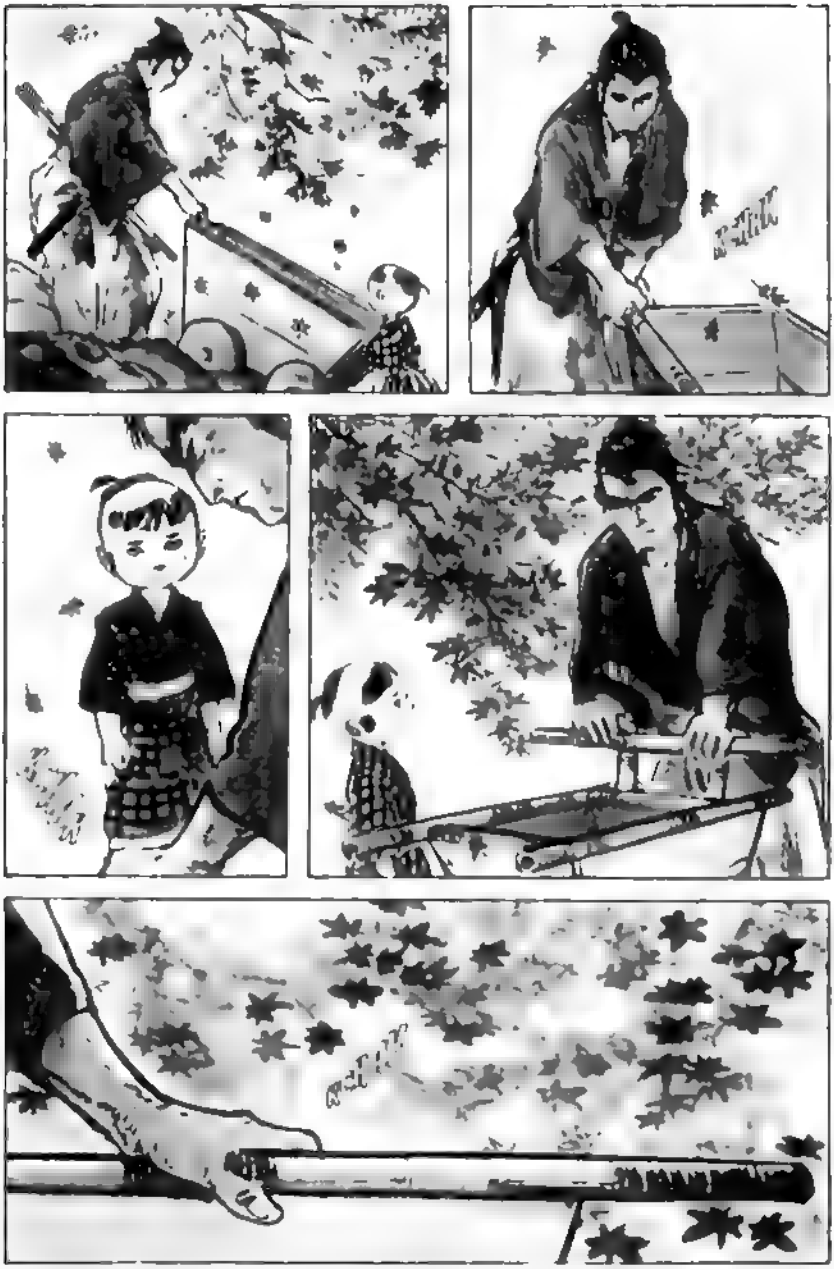

SKSH
SKSH



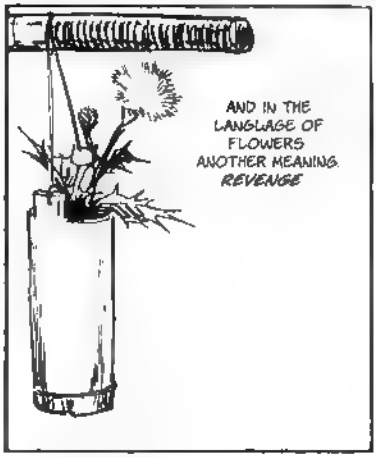

SKSH
SKSH



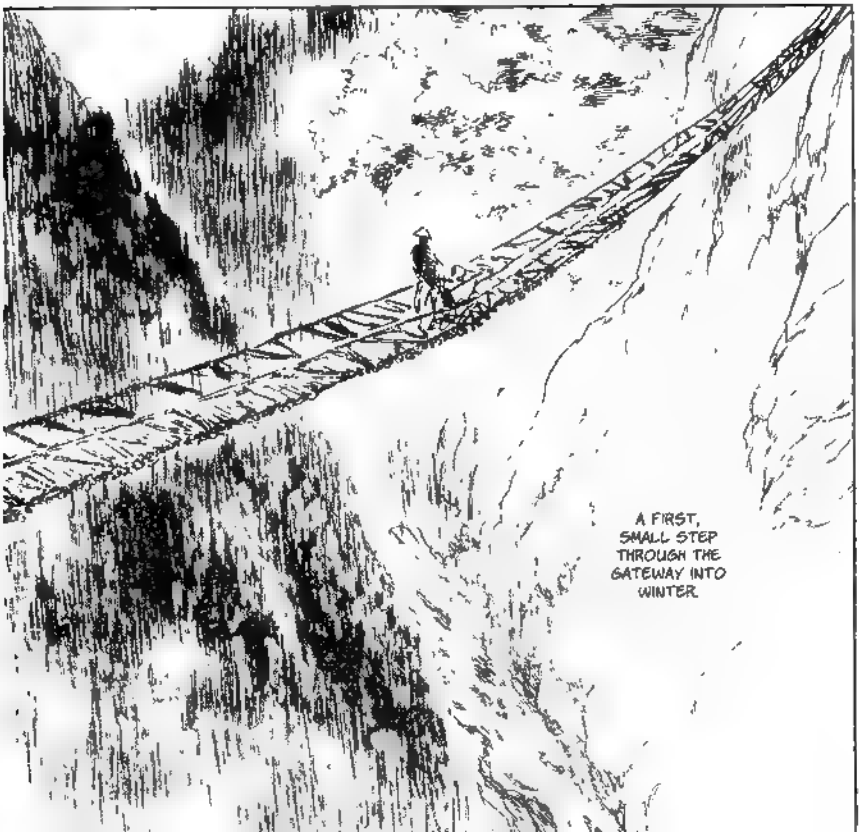

KCHK



THE FLOWER'S NAME WAS *AKAN*/ HIS MOTHER'S NAME *AKAN*/ FOR THIS FATHER AND SON IT WAS THE FLOWER OF WIVES, FLOWER OF MOTHERS THE *AKAN*/ FLOWER


AND IN THE
LANGUAGE OF
FLOWERS
ANOTHER MEANING.
REVENGE

THEY HAD CLEANSED BODY AND SOUL. THEY HAD TENDED THEIR WEAPONS AND NOW THIS FATHER AND SON, PLAYTHINGS OF DESTINY, SET FOOT ANEW ON THEIR JOURNEY OF REVENGE.

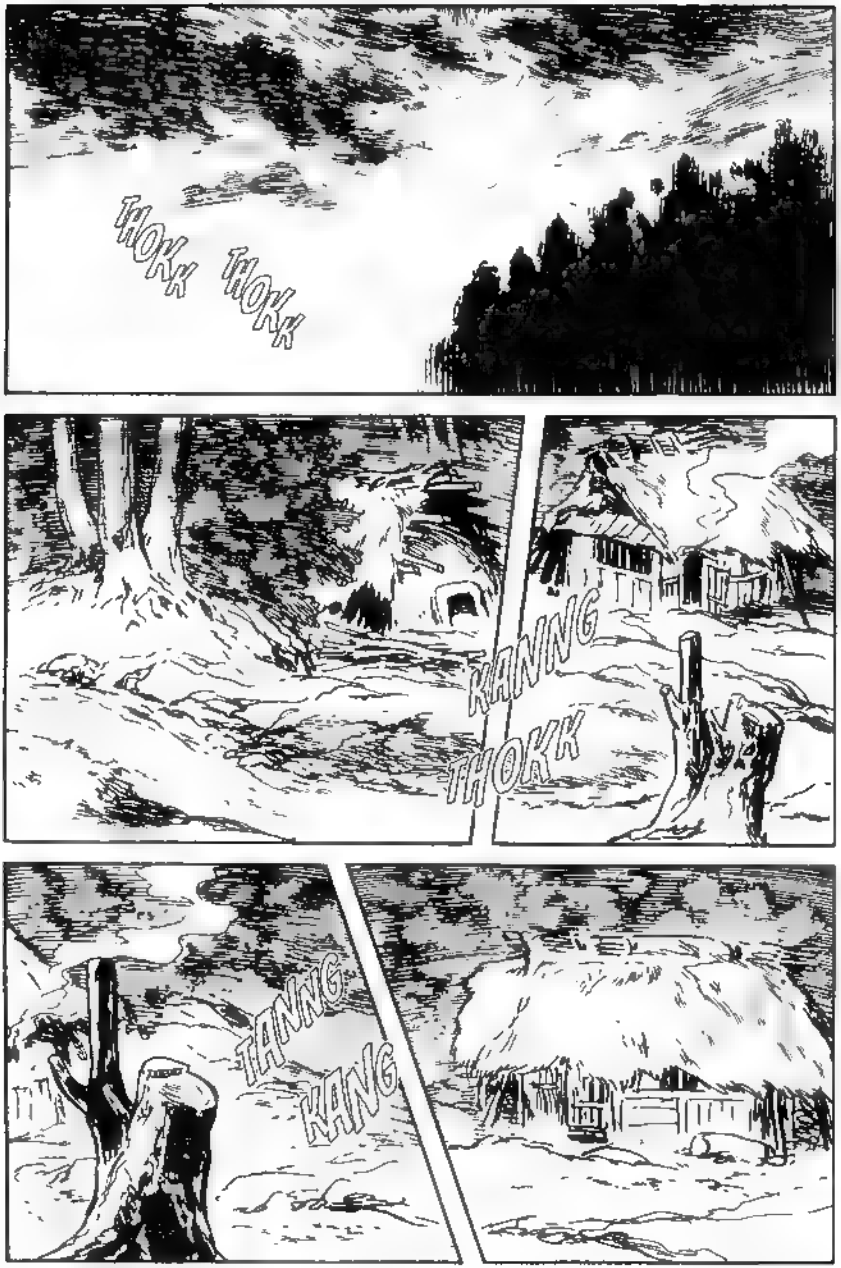

A FIRST, SMALL STEP THROUGH THE GATEWAY INTO WINTER

JUST A SMALL STEP THAT WOULD CARRY THEM DEEP INTO WINTER.

LET'S GIT GOIN'

IF I HAD FIFTY RYŌ
HECK! IT'S THIRTY N SILVER JES' FER SPOTTIN' 'IM!
STOP YER DREAMIN', SON. IF YE'D STOP THET CRAZY DREAMIN', MEBBE YER'D GIT SOME WORK DONE.

SHEESH.
I'M JES' IMAGININ', IS ALL
IMAGINE, NOTHIN'! WE'RE JEST SUMIYAK!! CHASIN' KILLERS AIN'T NONE OF OUR BUSINESS!
HUH. FREEZE OUR BUTTS OFF MAKIN' CHARCOAL IN TH' HILLS. WORK A LI'L PUDDLE A' RICE WHEN TH' SNOW MELTS THET AIN'T LIVIN'!
AT LEAST I CAN HAVE MY DREAMS, KAIN'T I?!
NOW, NOW
SHIT!
EVEN I WANT SUMTHIN' MORE OUTTA LIFE!


THOKK THOKK
KANNG
THOKK
TANNG
KANG

THOK!
THOK!

GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA

PARDON ME FOR ASKING.
YA YAS-SIR?
DOES THIS PATH LEAD TO FUJIEDA?
Y YASSIR! HEAD ON DOWN AN'-
N-NO, SIR! OH, NO! KA.N'T BE DONE!
MATSUKICHI! WHAT'RE YE-
SHUT YER MOUTH, PA!
IT'S THE DUTY OF US SUMIYAKI TO HELP OUT FOLK IN THE WOODS!
SO IMPOSS-BLE YOU SAY?
Y-YES, SIR! SEE, THE SUN'S DROPP.IN' LAIK A ROCK
AN' THE PATH TO FUJIEDA'S GOT CLIFFS ALL THE WAY AIN'T FIT FOR A GENT WITH A KID AFTER DARK WE NE'ER DO IT, AN' WE LIVE UP HERE!

PARK YERSELF WITH US T'NIGHT, SIR KAIN'T OFFER MUCH, BUT YER WELCOME TO IT
YUP THET'S BEST FOR SURE
HEH! CUTE LI'L TYKE, AIN'T HE!

MATSU-KICHI!
WHAT BE YE THINKIN'?
IT'S JES' A NIP DOWN T' FUJIEDA, NIGHT OR DAY YER SPINNIN' LIES!
LOOK- I GOT ME AN IDEA, PA!
WHY YE LI'L SKUNK !
PA !
JES' HEAR ME OUT, PA!
YOU APOLOGIZE TO 'IM RAIT NOW! LORD KNOWS WHAT HE COULD DO TO US!
GIT 'EM OUTTA HERE QUICK!
DON'T YE CARE F OKIYO NEVER GITS MARRIED?
FIFTY RYŌ GITS HER A DOWRY!

GITS ME A WIFE!
BUYS US SOME REAL FIELDS!
JES' LOOKIT HACHIBE HERE!
THIRTY-SIX, AN' NO GIRL'LL HAVE HIM!
NO WAY, PA! I AIN'T GROWIN' OLD LIKE THAT, NO HOW!
NNG. .
AH DON'T WANT NO BLOOD MONEY...
WHAT D'YER MEAN, "BLOOD MONEY" ?!
IT'S A REWARD! FROM THE GUMMINT! THET MAN'S A KILLER!
WE AIN'T DONE NUTHIN' BAD! THE GUMMINT'S GONNA PRAISE US!

MAYBE SO, BUT HOW TH' HECK
HACHIBE'S RAHT BAD GUY OR NO, WE KAIN'T TAKE 'IM ON.
I GOT AN IDEA!
WE TAKE THE BIG SAW, ALL THREE OF US.
AN' DROP THET TREE BEHIND THE CABIN!
MM...
B-BUT.. HE'LL HEAR THE NOISE!
JEST TELL 'IM WE WORK AT NIGHT!

AH TELL YUH— IT'S A GOOD THING WE'RE DOIN'!
RGHK
IT AIN'T MUCH, SIR, BUT
THANK YOU.

THEN YE SLEEP WELL, Y'HEAR ?
OH, WE'S WORKIN' T'NIGHT
IF YE HEAR SOME S-SAWIN', DON'T PAY IT NO NEVER M-MIND

IT'S NOTHING

SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKRRK
KRCCH
SKCCH

GIMME HERE, PA
KRGCH
SKRGCH
KRGCH
GOTTA GOTTA GIT 'EM BEFORE DAWN!
SKRGCH
KCCH
KRGCH
FASTER, BROTHER!
KCCH
AW, NOW!
KRGCH
KRGCH

KIYO! GO LOOK!
SKCCH
SKCCH
SKCCH
SKCCH
SKCCH
SKCCH
THEY'RE SLEEPIN' TIGHT
GOOD!
KRCCH

SKCCH
KRCCH
KRRK
KRCCH
SKCCH
CCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCHT
SKCHT
SKCHT

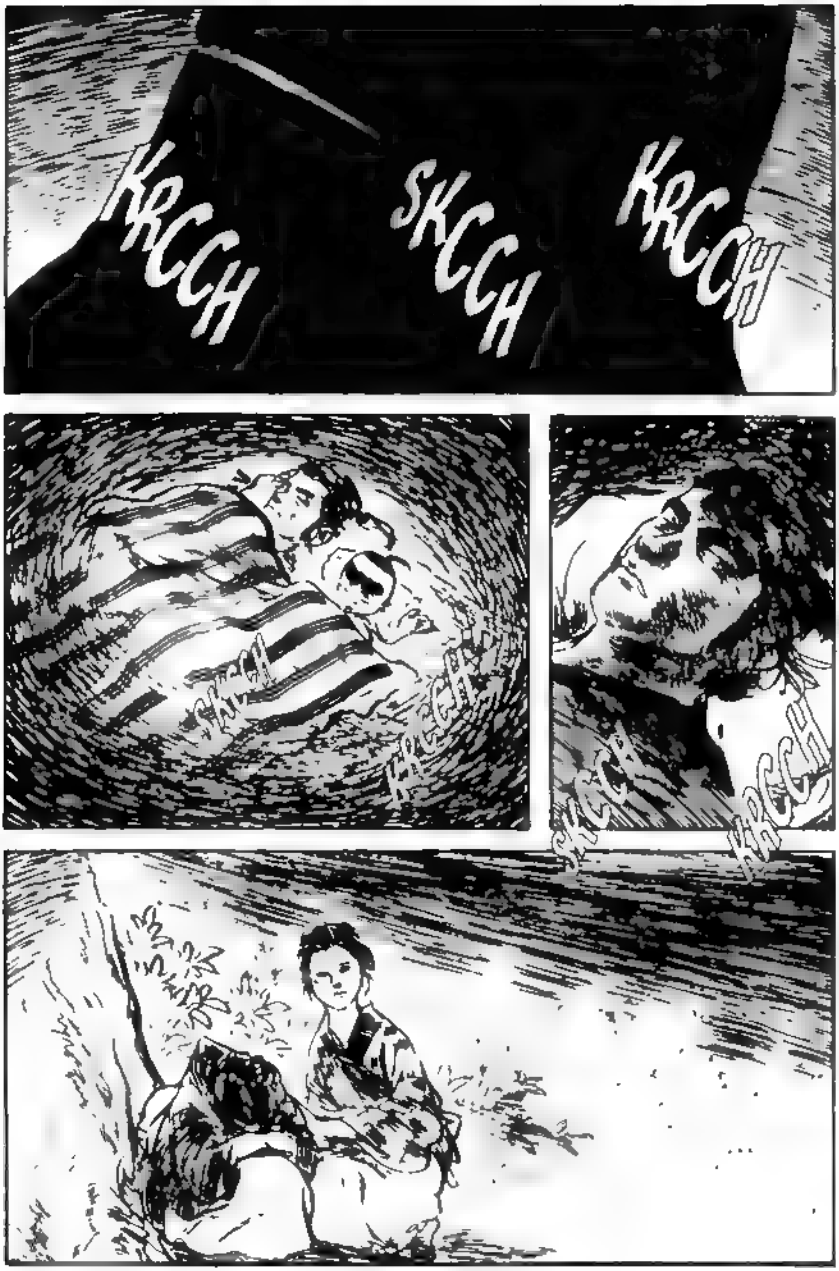
SKCH
KRCCH
GCCH
SKRKK
KRCH
KCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCCH
KRCCH
hhh.
Aechoo!
SKCCH
KRCCH
KRK
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCCH
KRCCH
GNCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCCH
KRCCH
GRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH

SKCH
KRCH
MA? WHAT'S WRONG ?
KRCH
KRCH
KRCH
KRCH
SKCH
KRCH
SKCH
KRCH
KRCH


KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
KRCCH

SKCH
SKCH
KRC
KRC

SKCCH
KR
SKCC
KRC
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

THET, THET DOES IT
LOOKS LAIK WE MADE IT
SO LET'S FINISH TH' JOB!
HERE WE GO!

NO!! DON'T DO IT!
HUH?! WHATCHER DOIN', MA?!
STOP IT, MATSUKICHI! I KAIN'T BE PART A' NO MURDER!
MA! IT'S TOO LATE! WE DECIDED!
I KNOWS T' BUT I KAINT!
DON'T CARE IF THE GUMMINT PRAISES US, DON'T CARE 'BOUT MONEY! I JES' KAIN'T NEVER KILL NOBODY!
DON'T DO IT, MATSUKICHI! PA! OKIYO! STOP 'IM!
OUTTA THE WAY, MA! JEST SHUT YER EYES, 'N' IT'S OVER!
HACHIBE! TAKE THE AXE OFF 'IM!
FIFTY RYŌ, MA! FIFTY RYŌ!
WE KIN' GIT A FIELD, ME AN HACHIBE KIN GIT MARRIED!

OKIYO GITS A GOOD *HUSBAND!*
KCHOK
BUT WHAT'LL FOLK *SAY* IFFEN WE BUY A FIELD WITH BLOOD MONEY?! *RED RICE*, THET'S WHAT!
WHAT'LL FOLK SAY 'BOUT OKIYO'S *DOWRY?!*
WH. WHY'RE YA SAYIN' IT *NOW?!* WE COME THIS *FAR!*
YA SHOULDA SAID IT *BEFORE!*
NOW *LEGGO!* AH DON'T *CARE!!*
I JEST KAIN'T KILL. KAIN'T *KILL* THAT LI'L *BOY!*

I WON'T NEITHER!
IF WE KILL A BABY BOY I'LL HATE MAHSELF FEREVER AN' EVER!
DON'T DO IT? PLEASE? BROTHER?
THEY'S RAIT WE GOTTA GIVE IT UP WE A.N'T MURDERERS
THET CUTE LI'L LAD.
THE DEVIL GOT INTO US
PUT IT DOWN. C'MON, MATSUKICHI!
D-DAMN.
SPRAK
KRAK

KRAK!
SPRAK!
SKSSHH

SKKOOM
SKRASSH

AH!HH!

NOOOO!!

OHH!

LONE WOLF AND CUB BOOK SIXTEEN: THE END
TO BE CONTINUED

GLOSSARY

bangashira
Commander of the guard

daikan
An official who collected taxes owed to Edo and oversaw public works, agriculture, and other projects administered by the central government.

daimyō
A feudal lord

Edo
The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shōgunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo

han
A feudal domain.

honorifics
Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Lone Wolf and Cub*.
chan – for children, young women, and close friends
dono – archaic; used for higher-ranked or highly respected figures
san – the most common, used among equals or near-equals
sama – used for superiors
sensei – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians

kitsune
A Japanese fox. Foxes were believed to be supernatural shape-changers, transforming themselves into beautiful women to deceive travelers

kōgi kaishakunin
The shôgun's own second, who performed executions ordered by the shogun

meifumadō
The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation

Mulberry
The leaves of the Mulberry tree are the favored food of silkworms

o-tedama
A traditional girl's game, playing catch and juggling with tedama, small juggling balls stuffed with dry beans

ri
Old unit of measurement Approximately 4 kilometers (2 5 miles)

rōnin
A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves." Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of han, expulsion for misbehavior, or other reasons. Prohibited from working as farmers or merchants under the strict Confucian caste system imposed by the Tokugawa shogunate, many impoverished rōnin became "hired guns" for whom the code of the samurai was nothing but empty words

ryō
A gold piece, worth 60 *monme*

ryū
Often translated as "school " The many variations of swordsmanship and other martial arts were passed down from generation to generation to the offspring of the originator of the technique or set of techniques, and to any *deishi* students that sought to learn from the master The largest schools had their own *dōjo* training centers and scores of students An effective swordsman had to study the different techniques of the various schools to know how to block them in combat Many *ryū* also had a set of special, secret techniques that were only taught to school initiates

shinobi
A generic term for ninja, meaning "one who moves in secrecy." Ninja had their heyday in the time of warring states before the rise of the Tokugawa clan. Originally mercenaries serving different warlords, by the Edo period they were in the service of the central government. The most famous *shinobi* were the ninja of Iga and Kaga, north of Kyoto The Kurokuwa that appear in *Lone Wolf and Cub* were officially the laborers and manual workers in Edo Castle Whether they truly served as a secret spy corps is lost in history

sumi
Japanese ink, used for calligraphy and *sumi-e* (ink paintings) It comes in a solid block and is wetted with water in a tray

sumiyaki
Charcoal makers. Charcoal was used in stoves for home heating and cooking. *Sumiyaki* spent the winter in the hills, cutting down lumber and slow burning it into charcoal to sell in town

tsuba
Sword guard

王通水浪

KAZUO KOIKE

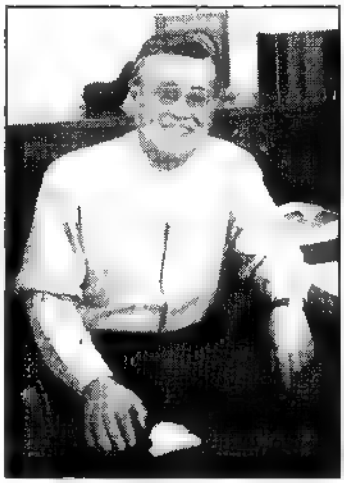
Though widely respected as a powerful writer of graphic fiction, Kazuo Koike has spent a lifetime reaching beyond the bounds of the comics medium. Aside from co-creating and writing the successful *Lone Wolf and Cub* and *Crying Freeman* manga, Koike has hosted television programs; founded a golf magazine, produced movies, written popular fiction, poetry, and screenplays, and mentored some of Japan's best manga talent.

Lone Wolf and Cub was first serialized in Japan in 1970 (under the title *Kozure Okami*) in *Manga Action* magazine and continued its hugely popular run for many years, being collected as the stories were published, and reprinted worldwide. Koike collected numerous awards for his work on the series throughout the next decade. Starting in 1972, Koike adapted the popular manga into a series of six films, the *Baby Cart Assassin* saga, garnering widespread commercial success and critical acclaim for his screenwriting.

This wasn't Koike's only foray into film and video. In 1996, *Crying Freeman*, the manga Koike created with artist Ryoichi Ikegami, was produced in Hollywood and released to commercial success in Europe and is currently awaiting release in America.

And to give something back to the medium that gave him so much, Koike started the *Gekiga Sonjuku*, a college course aimed at helping talented writers and artists — such as *Ranma 1/2* creator Rumiko Takahashi — break into the comics field.

The driving focus of Koike's narrative is character development, and his commitment to character is clear. "Comics are carried by characters. If a character is well created, the comic becomes a hit." Kazuo Koike's continued success in comics and literature has proven this philosophy true.



GOSEKI KOJIMA

Goseki Kojima was born on November 3, 1928, the very same day as the godfather of Japanese comics, Osamu Tezuka. While just out of junior high school, the self-taught Kojima began painting advertising posters for movie theaters to pay his bills.

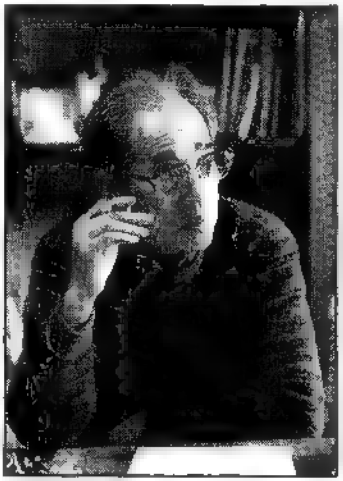
In 1950, Kojima moved to Tokyo, where the postwar devastation had given rise to special manga forms for audiences too poor to buy the new manga magazines. Kojima created art for *kami-shibai*, or "paper-play" narrators, who would use manga story sheets to present narrated street plays. Kojima moved on to creating works for the *kashi-hon* market, bookstores that rented out books, magazines, and manga to mostly low income readers. He soon became highly popular among *kashi-hon* readers.

In 1967, Kojima broke into the magazine market with his series *Dojinki*. As the manga magazine market grew and diversified, he turned out a steady stream of popular series.

In 1970, in collaboration with Kazuo Koike, Kojima began the work that would seal his reputation, *Kozure Okami* (*Lone Wolf and Cub*). Before long the story had become a gigantic hit, eventually spinning off a television series, six motion pictures, and even theme song records. Koike and Kojima were soon dubbed the "golden duo" and produced success after success on their way to the pinnacle of the manga world.

When *Manga Japan* magazine was launched in 1994, Kojima was asked to serve as consultant, and he helped train the next generation of manga artists.

In his final years, Kojima turned to creating original graphic novels based on the movies of his favorite director, Akira Kurosawa. Kojima passed away on January 5, 2000 at the age of 71.



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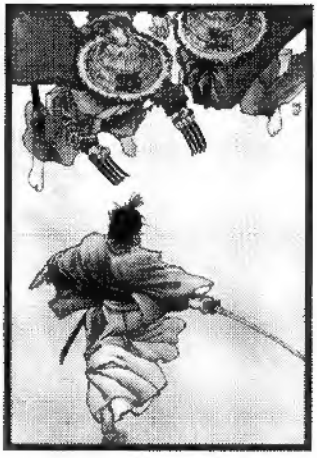

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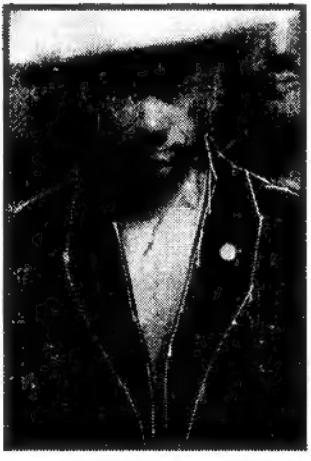

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